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HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

No. XVI.

CLEARING THE STAGE.

In most Englishmen, we should imagine, the phrenological organ of adhesiveness is strongly developed. If it be not, it ought to be; for the bent of disposition which it represents is prominent enough. To stick to a thing once taken up in earnest—to concentrate upon it, until the desire cherished with regard to it is realised, all the energies of the soul—to suffer no cross purpose, however enticing, to divert attention from its pursuit—to follow hard upon it with undistracted mind and untiring perseverance until it is overtaken, seized, appropriated, and turned to account—is a characteristic of our countrymen so common as to deserve the epithet "national."

The numerous modes in which this trait of mind displays itself furnish some curious themes for study, and bring out, at times, some wonderfully grotesque results. Were this the time and place for it, it would be worth while to turn over a few illustrations, with the view of showing how, in the common walks of social life, this same adhesiveness often places men of known judgment in apparent antagonism with reason, and compels them not merely to endure, but even to overlook, inconveniences of the most obtrusive nature. We have, however, another end in view; and we must justify our description of Saxon character by sticking to the point in hand.

It is matter of notoriety, that, a few years back, a free-trade movement, having an eye chiefly, however, to the removal of restrictions on the importation of food, was originated at Manchester. It soon extended itself to the most important of our manufacturing towns. Its earlier history scarcely justified any confident predictions of its speedy success. But the heart of the movement was strong, and circumstances which we cannot now stay to specify, kept it tolerably healthy. Its progress, therefore, after a brief period, was rapid. Bold in its plans, and energetic in carrying them into effect, it gradually took hold upon the national mind, and established for itself an exclusive place in the affections of our countrymen. It asked large sums, and it received them. It proposed gigantic undertakings, and, in many instances, it accomplished them. It invited the aid of all classes. It put in requisition all available machinery. It spread its influence over the whole empire, and became the cynosure of all eyes. The League absorbed all the reforming life and activity of Great Britain, and, after various vicissitudes, effectually claimed to have its question disposed of prior to the entertainment of any other.

Our stated readers are well aware that against this claim we entered our unavailing but most resolute protest. Admitting, to the full, the vast importance of Free trade, we never could see the necessity or the wisdom of sacrificing to it, either free representation or free religion. We are bound, however, to admit, that in this respect we were, save at one or two periods of unusual excitement, in a small minority. The educational clauses of the Factories bill, and the Maynooth Endowment bill, touching so closely as they did upon what remains to us of religious liberty, diverted attention for a moment from the all-engrossing topic, and disclosed the fact, that when the question of Free trade should receive the sanction of the legislature, and the energies which gathered about itself were once again set free, there remained sufficient in-

terest in higher subjects to form the nucleus of a most effective agitation.

We can readily understand the hesitation of Dissenters to enter upon a new and yet bolder movement while the question of the Corn laws remained unsettled, unjustifiable as we deem that hesitation to have been. It resolves itself partly into the less spiritual and ethereal character of the object in present pursuit, and partly into the national habit of doing but one thing at a time, and of sticking to it till it is done. The mind familiarised with any one idea to which it attaches pre eminent interest, warms, if we may so speak, in its seat, and is loath to leave it for another, even although that other be one of higher dignity. All the arguments respecting it have come to be regarded as household stuff. All the expectations respecting it have been as the casement windows through which we look, at early dawn, upon our own homestead. Other ideas may be more important, but they are not so regarded by us. The mountain on the horizon may be vastly more attractive, in itself considered, than the little hillock which stands within a few yards of our own door; but we prefer the latter to the former, because we have linked with it most of our associations. Indeed, we are ready to sing, with too indulgent an application of the lines to matters which repudiate the use of them—

"Midst pleasures and palaces though we may roam,
Be it ever so homely, there's no place like home."

We are not surprised at, therefore, although compelled both to regret and to blame, the coldness with which professed voluntaries have treated their own principles, in contrast with the energy and passion with which they have lent themselves to the cause of Free trade. That they have herein done discredit to themselves and to the truth committed to them, we shall always maintain. It would, however, be silly to deny altogether the insidiousness or the force of the temptation which has assailed them—and we are earnestly anticipating the day, now, we trust, not far distant, when the same propensities and habits which now bind them so exclusively to the prominent movement of the day, will avail to link them inseparably to that other and greater one which is far more closely identified with truth, and peace, and universal brotherhood.

Happily, hope springs up even in this direction. The League is near the termination of its labours—the Corn laws have heard their death-knell rung. In a few months, at farthest, the ten years' object of pursuit will have been realised. What a disengagement will then take place of pent-up energies! What a release of public attention for other topics! What a liberation of bonded sympathies! It will be as the breaking up of winter—and thoughts and feelings, long since imprisoned within the narrow circuit of this one subject, will venture abroad again in their manifold life, and look with interest once more upon the face of God's earth. And then, when the mind is deprived of its wonted guest, and Free trade is reported as "gone to be married" to the legislature, what a glorious opportunity will be presented to Voluntarism to solicit the untaxed attention of its professed friends, and to fill up that place in their affections vacated by the triumph of a somewhat jealous rival. Why, the active men of the League will scarce know how to employ their leisure, or to gratify that thirst for excitement which past engagements have unquestionably produced. If the next great question of the day be not the question of state churches, Dissenters will have their own supineness alone to blame. The nick of time will have come for them, when the Queen shall have put her sign manual to the act which opens for ever the ports of Great Britain to the importation of grain. Whilst the stage is yet clear, we look to see them come forward in a character befitting the unspeakable moment of the great enterprise which invites their activity.

THE VICAR OF LOWESTOFT AND THE
TITHE ON MACKEREL.

On Wednesday last, the case of Mr Roberts came again before the magistrates for hearing. Mr Cunningham, the vicar, conducted his own case. Mr Tillett, of Norwich, appeared for Mr Roberts. Mr Cunningham's claim was for 10s. 3d., the value of a proportion of the mackerel taken during the fishing voyage of the boat "Wesley," belonging to Mr Roberts, which proportion is called the "half-dole."

In support of his claim, Mr C. called three fish merchants, whose evidence showed that, within their knowledge, the half-doles had been paid for forty years, and that they themselves had paid them during the whole period they had been connected with the trade; they considered the claim was just, and paid the demand as they would any other debt. They had heard at various times opinions stated with regard to the origin of the custom, which were to this effect: that the half-doles were paid at first voluntarily, at a time when the vicar's income was slender; but they did not think these opinions to be of any authority. They had known these claims to be made under all circumstances, even when there was a positive loss to owners, and showed that the men employed contributed their share to the amount as well as the owner. Mr Cunningham produced the accounts of his predecessors from 1677, thus carrying back evidence of the fact of payment for 168 years. Mr Tillett remarked that these entries afforded no proof that the payment was any other than a voluntary one; and, upon an examination of the books, he discovered two papers, one a letter written by T. Tanner, a commissary at Norwich, to his brother John, vicar of Lowestoft. This letter related to a dispute about the tithe of fish, which arose in 1709, and stated that the case must be tried under the provisions of the act of the 2nd of Edward VI., which requires proof that the custom existed forty years before the date of that act (i. e. in 1509). This Mr Tillett had insisted upon at the previous hearing. The other paper was entitled "Thoughts on the Tithe of Fish at Lowestoft," having special reference to the mackerel fishing. This old document positively stated that the vicar "accepted what the merchants were willing to give." Mr Cunningham then read a paper purporting to be a copy of a document in the Rolls' court; but this was not received as evidence because it had not been authenticated. This paper declared that "twenty years before the 9th of Elizabeth," there was a tithe of fish, called "Christ's dole." On this Mr Tillett remarked, that as the document was "upon the decay of the vicarage," the language used was a fair presumption that at the date of the document there was no such custom. This ended the vicar's case.

Mr Tillett contended that the claim had not been substantiated, and then pressed some technical objections, one of which was to the information, which declared that these tithes were "arising in the parish of Lowestoft," whereas they clearly arose in the sea, which was not in the parish of Lowestoft.

The magistrates over-ruled the objection, and thought that sufficient evidence had been given to prove the legality of the custom, and therefore ordered payment. It may as well be stated that the order for payment was made out by the clerk to the magistrates before the case had been heard. As this order will be neglected, Mr Robert's woods will probably be seized.—From a Correspondent.

SUSPENSION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN
THE CANTON DE VAUD.

The Council of State in the Canton de Vaud has just published the following edict:—

The Council of State in the Canton de Vaud, observing the events of which the oratory and other religious meetings at Lausanne have been the occasion—believing that, if religious meetings without the pale of the national church, and unauthorised by law, are permitted to continue, public order will be thereby seriously compromised—believing that, in the actual state of men's minds, the rightly-understood interests of religious liberty itself, as well as the maintenance of public order and the well-being of the national church, demand the suspension of religious meetings unconnected with the national church, which have been already the occasion of troubles, of which the evil consequences to the country may be incalculable—

Making use, therefore, of the special authority with which it was invested by the decree of the 19th November, 1845, decrees—

1. That from henceforth, until orders are issued to the contrary, all assemblies at the oratory, and all other religious meetings without the pale of the national church, are prohibited at Lausanne.

2. In case of disobedience, or of infringement of the first article of this edict, such meetings shall be dissolved, if necessary, by the employment of force; and those who have thus rebelled against the authority of this edict, shall be summoned before the courts, to be punished according to the penal code.

3. The Council of State will take similar measures in other parts of the country, where they may become necessary.

4. The execution of the present edict is committed to the prefect of the district of Lausanne, and to the municipality of that city.

Given under the seal of the Council of State at Lausanne, Dec. 2, 1845, to be printed and published.

H. DRUEY, President of the Council of State.

C. FORNEROD, Chancellor.

While all these distressing circumstances are oc-

curing to discourage the hearts of the faithful ministers and of their adherents, there are other events of a more cheering nature, which seem to indicate that, were the dread of persecution to be taken away, and the people left to follow the dictates of their own consciences and inclinations, a larger number would ultimately rally round the pastors than was at first anticipated.

"The commission," says a correspondent of the *Esperance*, "the commission, which is occupied with the re-organisation of the church, pursues its work with devotedness and activity. It has added to its numbers several new members, for the purpose of operating upon various different parts of the country. Numerous encouragements sustain them. In many parishes they find persons disposed to rally round their old pastor, to form, along with him, a nucleus of a little church, independent of the state. A subscription, which had been opened in favour of those of the pastors who had resigned their connexion with the established church, and were in destitute circumstances, had been entered upon with spirit, and had produced unexpected results. Thus, in the midst of the heavy sorrows of our true church, there are some sweet consolations."

In some few instances, it seems that the mass of the people have gone out with their ministers.

SYMPATHY WITH THE SUFFERING MINISTERS OF THE CANTON DE VAUD.—On Tuesday night, a public meeting was held in the City hall, Glasgow, "in behalf of those ministers in the Canton de Vaud now suffering in defence of evangelical truth, and of the spiritual liberties of the church of Christ." The hall was respectfully filled by Christians of different denominations, and on the platform we observed the leading clergymen of the city, including the Rev. Drs Wardlaw, Buchanan, Brown, Symington, and King; the Rev. J. S. Taylor, Rev. Mr Lorimer, Rev. Mr Burns, of Kilsyth, Bailie Anderson, Bailie Brodie, John Bain, Esq., Hugh Tennant, Esq., &c. Henry Dunlop, Esq., of Craigton, occupied the chair. After able and eloquent addresses by Dr Buchanan, Dr King, Rev. Mr Taylor, and other clergymen, a series of resolutions were moved and carried, expressive of sympathy with the faithful ministers in the Canton de Vaud, in their present independent contending for the liberty of the church of Christ, and in support of the principle of the freedom of Christ's church from the interference of civil authority. It was agreed to transmit a copy of the resolutions to the suffering ministers in the Canton de Vaud; and a committee was appointed to open up a correspondence with them, to send, if necessary, a deputation to Switzerland; and also, if found proper, after due deliberation, to memorialise the British government to interfere, by peaceful negotiation, in behalf of the seceding ministers, so as to preserve them, if possible, from persecution.—*Glasgow Argus*. [There was to be a meeting for the same purpose, in Edinburgh, on Monday.]

SECESSIONS TO ROME.—Mr Stokes, a distinguished member of Cambridge University, and late secretary of the Camden Society, was received into the Roman Catholic church on Sunday last, at St Chad's, Birmingham, in the presence of a very large congregation. The number of recent converts to the church of Rome now exceeds seventy, of whom more than thirty are clergymen of the establishment.—*Morning Post*.

PROPOSED EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

MEETINGS AT LIVERPOOL.
(From the *Liverpool Courier*.)

Last night (Tuesday) two overflowing meetings were held in this town for the promotion of Christian Union—the one at the Royal Amphitheatre, and the other at the Commercial hall, Gloucester street. These meetings had their origin in a resolution passed at a conference of ministers belonging to nineteen different evangelical denominations held at the Medical institution, Mount Pleasant, in October last. That conference met, at the suggestion of an esteemed American Christian friend, who thought from the aspect of the religious world at present, coupled with the daring incursions of the papacy at home and abroad, and the insidious dissemination of the heresies of the Puseyites, that an attempt should at least be made to endeavour to unite in one grand confederacy against error all who hold the distinctive and leading doctrines of the gospel of Christ. The result of the conference greatly exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its zealous supporters. It was characterised by a spirit of concord and brotherly love and forbearance never before witnessed in these countries since the introduction of the glorious Reformation. Every speaker seemed to be animated with a sincere, heartfelt desire to respect the opinions of others rather than his own, and to forbear from mooted any of those controverted questions of church government and discipline, upon which differences of sentiment might be expected to be elicited. The issue was most triumphant. The conference passed resolutions appointing metropolitan and provincial provisional committees. It was resolved that an aggregate meeting should be held in London in June next, to which the ministers of all the evangelical churches throughout the world should be invited, and that in the meantime large public meetings should be held—in Liverpool in January, and in Birmingham in April. The provincial committees were authorised to convene meetings in their respective localities at any other times they might consider advisable, in order to spread a knowledge of the principles upon which the alliance was proposed to be based, and to afford such other information in connexion therewith as it might be supposed would cheer the hearts and elevate the spirits of the great Christian community.

Upon the spirit of this latter resolution, the Liver-

pool Provisional Committee have now acted. It was originally their intention that a meeting at the Amphitheatre only should be held. They knew that the subject was popular, and that the friends of Christian union in Liverpool were numerous, and, therefore, though it was to a certain extent, at the time, a bold experiment, they decided upon engaging the Amphitheatre—the largest public building in this town, and one which may comfortably seat about 3,500, but into which another thousand at least, if they are willing to put up with standing room, may be crushed. The committee laboured under a pardonable mistake. They had no conception of the multitudinous array of their warm supporters. The application for tickets were by many thousands more numerous than could by any possibility be supplied. They commenced on Thursday morning, and, before half a dozen hours were to an end, the whole of what were printed, five thousand in number, were applied for and taken. There seemed to be an average number of applicants from all the evangelical churches—we mean from the Church of England, the Established Church of Scotland, the Free Church, the Independents, the Baptists, and the Wesleyans. On Friday and Saturday, the demands continuing still to be more numerous than they were even upon the Thursday, it became imperatively necessary that some new plan should be resolved upon to meet the public requirements. Then it was that the Commercial hall in Gloucester street—a building capable of accommodating some two or three thousand persons more—was taken, in addition to the Amphitheatre, and that circulars to this effect were issued to the several ministers in Liverpool, for announcement from the pulpits of their respective churches on Sunday last.

Altogether, about 7,000 tickets were printed and distributed, and, as nearly as could be calculated, about twice that number were applied for. The doors of the Amphitheatre and Commercial hall were opened shortly before six o'clock, at which time, the streets adjacent and in front were thronged with anxious multitudes. The rush into the body of the house was tremendous. The seats in the boxes, pit, and gallery of the Amphitheatre were taken possession of with an eagerness which we have never seen equaled. The same may be said of the seats on the stage. In an incredibly short space of time, the building was crowded by those who could, and those who could not, obtain sitting-room. The audience might, with truth, be said to have been densely packed. Every nook had its occupant—every corner, from which even a glimpse of the platform could be obtained, had its temporary tenant. The appearance of the house, when the brilliant jets of gas were turned on, was truly splendid. But it was not until half-past six, when the chairman and speakers made their appearance, that anything like enthusiasm was manifested. Then, as the venerable and highly-respected chairman of the meeting, the Rev. James Haldane Stewart, made his way from the ante-room to the centre of the platform, followed by the several ministers who had engaged to take a leading part in the proceedings, one loud and protracted burst of applause broke from all parts of the building, telling, as unmistakably as voices could tell, that, in this great and hallowed movement, ministers and people—shepherds and flocks—were acting as one body, in harmonious concert.

Upon the motion of Dr Bickersteth, seconded by Alexander Dunlop, Esq., the chair was taken by the Rev. James Haldane Stewart. In the immediate vicinity of the chair sat those who were appointed to conduct the proceedings—namely, the Rev. W. W. Ewbank, the Rev. Dr Byrth, the Rev. J. Cordeaux, and the Rev. Wm. Maynard, of the Established Church; the Rev. John Tod Brown, of the established church of Scotland; the Rev. Dr Crichton, of the United Secession Church of Scotland; the Rev. J. R. Welsh, moderator of the Presbytery of Lancashire; the Rev. James Lister and the Rev. C. M. Birrell, of the Baptist church; the Rev. John Kelly and the Rev. Wm. Bevan, of the Independent church; the Rev. George Osborn, of the Wesleyans; and the Rev. J. H. Robinson, of the Methodist New Connexion.

The two meetings were addressed by the Rev. Messrs J. H. Stewart, Dr Byrth, W. W. Ewbank, J. Cordeaux, William Maynard, and Dr Bickersteth, of the established church of England; the Rev. J. T. Brown, of the established church of Scotland; the Rev. J. R. Welsh and Dr Ferguson, of the Free Church of Scotland; the Rev. Dr Raffles, J. Kelly, and Wm. Bevan, Independents; the Rev. George Osborn, Wesleyan; the Rev. Dr Crichton, Secession Church of Scotland; the Revs J. Lister and C. M. Birrell, Baptists; the Rev. J. H. Robinson, of the New Methodist Connexion, and other gentlemen.

With reference to the proposed terms of the Evangelical Alliance, we take the following extract from the opening address of the chairman:—

I feel particularly happy in being able to say that the proceedings of the Liverpool Conference have been such, that the more they are scrutinised the more effectually will they seal our confidence in the proposed Evangelical Alliance; and it is from feeling this confidence that I have joined the Liverpool committee [loud cheers]. The highly respectable persons who attended the Conference were Christian men, who, from various circumstances, were more closely associated, and who, therefore, could open their minds to each other with great freedom. An opportunity was thus afforded for testing their principles, for ascertaining their object, and the measures they desired to adopt for carrying it into effect. How highly satisfactory do these appear [hear, hear]! For, first, the spirit in which the Conference was commenced and continued, and in which it has been proposed to form the Evangelical Alliance, must commend itself to every sincere Christian—namely, that of confession of sin and deep humiliation before God for all the divisions of the Christian church, and especially for everything that any

of the members might have spoken in theological discussions contrary to speaking the truth in love. This acknowledgment was accompanied with an earnest recommendation carefully to abstain from all bitterness and evil speaking; and in everything, as the followers of God as dear children, to walk in love as Christ also has loved us, and hath given himself for us.

The second feature in the Liverpool meeting producing confidence is, that the basis of the union, or the profession of faith required of those who are to be invited to join the Evangelical Alliance, consists of eight articles, to which all "who keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus, can readily subscribe" [hear, hear]. Thus every one who joins the Alliance will at once see, that there is a common ground of truth, upon which, whatever varieties of sentiments there may be upon inferior topics, all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity can agree—that, therefore, an alliance may be formed among them, capable of being so strongly knit together by brotherly love, that, like a three fold cord, it cannot be easily broken [hear, hear]. A third very pleasing feature in these preliminary proceedings is, that whilst these eight articles form a sufficient basis to distinguish the sincere followers of our Lord, the Conference specially provided, that no compromise of their own views, or sanction of those of others, on the points on which they differ, ought to be required of any; but that all should be held as free as before to maintain and advocate their views with due forbearance and brotherly love [hear, and applause]. This is a provision which secures that which, as Protestants, is very dear to our hearts, namely, the enjoyment of Christian liberty, or the right of private judgment. I consider myself as much entitled to hold my conscientious sentiments, as a clergyman of the Church of England, as I was before I became a member of this Alliance, whilst I give the same liberty to my brethren [hear, hear]. We recognise nothing but our common Christianity—that we trust we are sincere believers in our Lord Jesus Christ; and that, as his disciples, we are to obey his commandment—to love one another [applause]. This is all that is required of us; and I do trust that, by the blessing of God upon our brotherly communications, that sweet promise shall, ere long, be fulfilled, "The watchmen shall lift up their voice, with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion."

PROPOSED MEETING AT MANCHESTER.—We understand the adherents to this movement in Manchester anticipate a grand demonstration in this town in the third week of January, when they promise to occupy the Free Trade hall, or some other large building, for an exposition of their principles and intentions. The men who have been most active in promoting the cause in London will be engaged as speakers, when it is probable the Revs Baptist Noel, Dr Leifchild, Mr Hamilton, and others, will take part in the proceedings of the evening. The committee already formed in Manchester consists of the leading members of the several denominations of evangelical Christians. T. C. Worsley, Esq., of Platt, is the chairman, and other office-bearers have been chosen from among Baptists, Methodists, Independents, and Presbyterians, and the most pleasing harmony prevails in the projected arrangements.—*Manchester Times*.

PUBLIC MEETING AT BELFAST.

On the evening of Wednesday last, a meeting of the ministers and members of various religious denominations was held in the Presbyterian church, Rosemary street, in furtherance of Christian union, on the basis of the projected Evangelical Alliance. The building, which is one of the largest in town, was crowded in every part by an audience composed of members of different Christian denominations, and representative, to a great extent, of the wealth and respectability of Belfast. The chair was taken by Mr Thomas Walker, vicar of Belfast; and amongst the speakers were the Chairman, J. Blackwood, Esq., LL.D., one of the deputation from Liverpool, and the following ministers:—Messrs Hyle (of the Established Church), Boyd (Secession minister), Dr Edgar (Presbyterian), Mr Ilwaine, Greer, Hodgkins, and Seymour. The CHAIRMAN, in describing the objects of the Alliance, said:—

We seek not to amalgamate systems, but to bind, in the bonds of truth, Christians. We come, as Christian men and as Christian women, deeply feeling that it is our duty to live and walk together as members of the one body of Christ [hear, hear]. I am glad to find that, at the meeting of the Conference in Liverpool, this view was expressed in the following resolution which they adopted:—"That, in the prosecution of the present attempt, the Conference are clearly and unanimously of opinion that no compromise of their own views, or sanction of those of others, on the points on which they differ, ought to be either required or expected on the part of any who concur in it; but that all should be held as free as before, to maintain and advocate their views, with all due forbearance and brotherly love; further, that any union or alliance to be formed should be understood to be an alliance of individual Christians, and not of denominations or branches of the church." I stand here on the merits of the resolutions passed at that Conference. As a clergyman of the Church of England, I do not intend to abate one iota of what I believe to be truth, and as such consider of importance: nor do I call upon any of my friends around me to abate one tittle of their respective views. But whilst I state this, I profess (and I have confidence in my brethren that they are equally minded), I wish solemnly to state my conviction, that whilst the matters on which we differ are considered by each of us to be of importance, we may, as Christian men, differ in love, and, at the same time, unite to promote brotherly love and the cause of Christian union [hear, hear].

Mr Boyd, Secession minister, described the terms on which they united at the Liverpool Conference:—

The ministers of the Established Church of England who were there, looked as if they said, "We'll give up a portion of our *hauteur*; we'll agree to denounce Tractarianism, if, on the other hand, you Voluntaries won't say a word in future against the connexion between church and state [laughter and cheers]—and this necessity for compromise seemed to be the understanding of many. I would go far to unite with my brother Chris-

tians; but to do this I could not consent to put my foot on one truth or renounce a single principle, nor do I wish any to shake hands with me on the same terms. Thus impressed, I went away from the Conference with a cloud upon my brow, but at the next meeting all difficulties vanished. Dr Cox and the Rev. Baptist Noel made speeches which removed every obstacle in the way of Christian union. Dr Cox told us not to give up anything which we deemed of moment—that it was not a dishonest union, but one of honesty that was required, and that this could not be obtained by any compromise of principle. From that moment all was unity, comfort, and happiness [great applause].

MR M'NEILE AND THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—At the conclusion of a sermon, on Sunday week, at St Jude's church, Liverpool; Mr M'Neile stated his reasons for not being able to join in the proposed Evangelical Alliance. The main ground of his objection is the broad basis of the union between Churchmen and Dissenters:—

The honest churchman, in opposing Popery (he says), is opposing false doctrines; but the honest Dissenter, the conscientious Voluntary, in opposing Popery, is opposing church establishments and endowments also. There can, therefore, be no real *bona fide* co-operation. For how, I ask, and I invite you to consider, how, by what practical procedure, Popery is to be opposed? Is it by writing and publishing? or is it by preaching? Or is it by scripture reading? or by all these? Well, the COMMON CHRISTIANITY on which the Alliance may agree in a room can do none of these things. Men must be employed, if anything is to be done, and then arises the question, *What men?* Are they to be churchmen, who, while opposing false doctrine, will not oppose, but defend, state churches? or are they to be Dissenters, who will oppose both? If a churchman be employed, will the conscientious Dissenter give the weight of his co-operation to what he deems erroneous? And if a Dissenter be employed, will the conscientious churchman give the weight of his co-operation to what he deems erroneous?

I cannot be a party to the employment and encouragement of a man who I know will declare prelate to be part and parcel of Popery. I cannot ask a Dissenter to be a party to the employment and encouragement of a man who he knows will declare it to be the duty of government to establish a Christian church. And I cannot ask any man to stifle or compromise his own conscientious convictions, and give up all aggressive movements, in order to become an abstract representative of all parties, and compromiser of none.

The *Church and State Gazette*, of Saturday, copies from the *Liverpool Mail* an article in which those clergymen who have joined in the movement for Christian union are severely dealt with. The article is entitled "A new 'Whole Duty of Man,' to tolerate" pulling down the church."

In these days of miserable expediency, says the writer, it cannot be too often repeated that it is not matter of opinion but matter of fact, that no clergyman, continuing in her pale, can turn his back on any practicable part of the Prayerbook, the articles, or the canons, without peril of perjury. Notwithstanding declarations of full and heartfelt conformity, which the church exacts as pledges and securities from each and all of her ten thousand clergy, Mr Bickersteth would give up to Dissenters this, that, and the other point—which the church never did and never can give up, without introducing an ecclesiastical chaos and anarchy.

It then quotes Dr Cox's declaration at the Liverpool Conference, and continues:—

Well, after this honest avowal, one might have expected that Dr Cox would have been voted out, as an "impracticable" member. Nothing of the sort! Hear Mr Baptist Noel:—

"Nay, I go beyond Dr Cox. . . . If he believe, for instance, that he must attack establishments of religion, the one object of our duty in our union is to see that he continues in our common faith; but, at the same time, we must tolerate that attack."

Alas, alas! that such suicidal counsels should ever have escaped from the lips of a *scorn* priest of the one holy Catholic and Apostolic church of this country.

EFFECTS OF THE STORM ON SUNDAY.—One of the most furious storms that has been experienced for a considerable period took place soon after midnight, on Sunday morning. The wind blew from N.N.E., and continued without interruption the entire day, occasioning, we regret to say, innumerable catastrophes along the coast, and loss of property to the extent of many thousands. Off Margate a homeward-bound Indian, called the Woodman, was driven ashore on the Kinck sands, and speedily became a wreck. Off Holyhead two vessels came in contact, and one, it is feared, foundered with ten persons on board, the number of her crew. The vessel is the *Æolus*, from Liverpool for the Azores, and the one which ran into her is the *Young Queen*, of the same port. Two only of the *Æolus's* crew jumped on board the *Young Queen*, and, before the vessels parted, another attempted a similar escape, but fell overboard and was drowned. At Bideford, the gale blew terrifically high all day, with heavy falls of snow. In the early part of the day the wreck of the yacht *Fairy*, the property of Charles Montgomery, Esq., of Swansen, was driven into the harbour, and her fragments strewn the shore on both sides for a considerable distance. It is ascertained that the vessel must have struck upon the bar in attempting to make the harbour, when she no doubt was instantly dashed to pieces, and all on board perishing. None of the bodies of the ill-fated crew have as yet been picked up; but a memorandum, of which the following is a copy, has been found amongst some papers washed up:—"John Baillie and William Cerram came on board the *Fairy* on the 20th of October, 1845." Many other fearful casualties occurred, but the correct particulars have not as yet been learned.

Religious Intelligence.

NORTH WALES.—At a meeting of delegates from the six counties of North Wales, to take into consideration the best plan to clear the debts now remaining upon the Independent chapels in their respective districts, it was proposed to make one general effort for two years, in Wales, towards this object, and not to countenance any minister going to England, during that period, on a begging excursion; but that, at the end of two years, it would be desirable to apply to England, Scotland, and Ireland for aid.

WALSALL.—Mr Alexander Gordon, A.M., of Balilay, Ireland, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the church and congregation assembling for divine worship in Bridge-street chapel, Walsall, to become their pastor, and is expected to enter upon his labours early in the ensuing year.

BRIGHTON.—On Wednesday last, the Grand Parade chapel, Brighton, was opened for the use of the church and congregation under the pastoral care of Mr Frederick Allin. The collection amounted to £53. The chapel is capacious, seating upwards of 600 hearers, and all present admired its combined elegance and neatness.

EXTINCTION OF DEBTS.—We announce with pleasure the complete removal of all debt from Townhead Street chapel. By repairs and improvements, a debt has been incurred of three hundred and twenty pounds. The church and congregation proposed to raise the whole in one year. A tea party was held in celebration of the event, when striking and edifying addresses were delivered by the pastor, the Rev. C. Larom; Rev. W. H. Stowell, of Masbro' college; J. Edwards, Jackson, Bellamy, Horsfield, Neal.—*Sheffield Independent*.

WOOLWICH.—A debt of £100 upon Salem chapel (Mr S. S. Bright, pastor), Woolwich, was lately liquidated in a similar manner.

CHELTEMHAM.—The anniversary services of Highbury chapel auxiliary, in aid of the London Missionary Society, took place on Saturday last, when two sermons on the past, present, and future condition of China, were delivered by Mr W. C. Milne, missionary to that country. On Monday the usual public meeting was held at the Literary Institution; and, by adjournment, at Highbury chapel in the evening. On Tuesday evening the annual usual juvenile missionary meeting was held, when Messrs Freeman, Milne, Mather, and neighbouring ministers, took part in the respective services. The directors will be pleased to find, that this auxiliary is receiving continually-increasing support, both in the amount and respectability of its contributions; amongst which is included a donation from Mr Francis Close, incumbent, accompanied with a letter, expressive of his best wishes for the prosperity of the parent society. The united collections and donations, irrespective of the annual subscription, realised £72 4s. 5d., being an increase of nearly one-third, in amount, upon the past year.

MONMOUTHSHIRE WELSH INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATION.—The quarterly meeting of the above association was held at Pontypool, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 9th and 10th of December. Conferences to transact the business of the association, were held at two o'clock the first day, and at eight o'clock the following morning; Mr H. Daniel, Pontypool, in the chair. Amongst other things, several measures were adopted to promote more union and co-operation among ministers and churches of different associations, in order to secure purity of communion, and more efficient exertions on behalf of religion. The churches were encouraged to hold fast their principles, notwithstanding the heat of persecution suffered by some of them, from mother church, in that quarter. All the friends present deeply sympathised with their persecuted brethren, and were glad to see their firmness in the maintenance of their principles. Public meetings were held at six the first evening, and at ten, two, and six the second day. The following ministers preached on the occasion:—Messrs W. Williams, Adulam; S. Jones, Sharon Tredegar; R. Jones, Sirhowy; J. Stephens, of Brychgoed; W. Davies, Blackwood (on a given subject); E. Rees, Llandovery, J. Evans, Capel Sion, Carmarthenshire; E. Jenkins, Salem; H. Powell, Hanover; D. Davies, Usk; M. Ellis, Mynyddiellwyn; T. Griffiths, Blaenafon; D. Salmon and J. Mathews, Newport. The conferences were truly edifying, and the sermons both powerful and affecting, but the hearers were not as numerous as might be expected.

BISHOP BURTON.—Mr J. Voller having resigned the pastoral charge of the Baptist church, Great George street, Salford (Manchester), a number of friends connected with the church and congregation, desirous of evincing their esteem for his character and services, lately held a social party, and presented him with a handsome copy of the works of President Edwards, the presentation of which was made by the Rev. Dr Massie, in a kind and fraternal spirit, and appropriately acknowledged by Mr Voller. Mr Voller has since accepted a unanimous and cordial invitation from the Baptist church at Bishop Burton, near Beverley, and commenced his labours there on the first Sabbath in December.

MISSENDEN.—Mr George Ashmead, of Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Baptist church, Missenden, Bucks, and will enter upon his duties there immediately.

Correspondence.

A SUSTENTATION FUND.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR—Your correspondent, "Simplex," tells a sorrowful tale, and I have no doubt it is true, every word of it. He is nevertheless in the very circumstances which enable him with the more effect to defend sound principles, when it is made to appear that he does so in opposition to what may be supposed to be his own interests. If he would make his case known to some intelligent mercantile man, a free-trader, he might be put in a way to remedy the evils of which he complains in perfect consistency with his present engagements.

The success which has attended the establishment of a sustentation fund in the Free Church of Scotland, seems to have created a strong desire amongst the Independents for something of the same kind amongst them. A part of the ministers, at least, have taken the matter up keenly: a party of which Dr Campbell is, or would be the leader. In my view, such an institution is unsound in principle, and though it may appear to some exceedingly desirable, it must, if I am right, ultimately increase the evil it is intended to cure. It is completely aristocratic in its nature; and is consequently at variance with the very first principles on which a Christian church is based. It partakes of the character of an endowment, and must, therefore, have injurious effects. In these times, ministers in particular would need to be on their guard how they comport themselves in matters connected with money. Their hold on public opinion may not be so strong as they imagine, and any step of this kind would give those who wish it a strong handle against them. As a church member, I should oppose such an institution to the uttermost; and I have good reason for believing that I am not singular in my sentiments.

I shall not occupy your paper with arguments on the subject. My object is merely to throw out a hint; and my belief is, that the sustentation fund is the rock on which the Free Church of Scotland will be wrecked. I am neither ignorant of, nor do I undervalue the difficulties and evils of the present system; but I demand that these be remedied by an appeal to the wisdom of God, by following out the scriptural principles in the way he has directed, and not to augment the mischief by resorting to the cunning devices of interested and fallible men.

December 10, 1845.

Yours,
DUPLEX.

BEGUILING THE AFFLICTED.—The authorities of St Peter's hospital, Bristol, last week determined on giving an entertainment to the lunatics confined in their house; and, accordingly, the place having been lit up and music provided, about eight o'clock festivities commenced by dancing and other innocent recreations, in which our poor afflicted fellow-beings of both sexes heartily joined, seeming thoroughly to enter into the sport, which revived in some the touching recollections of former times, and in others awakened the ecstasies of fond delusion. Some, who fancied themselves kings and queens, looked upon the entertainment as nothing short of a court ball, and conducted themselves accordingly; while others, whose hallucinations were less ambitious, fancied themselves once more in the holiday festivals of their native village. Some would have it that they were surrounded by courtiers, others that they were walking in the midst of their tenantry. The dancing was more active than regular; a few moved with slow and stately step, while others skipped, and jumped, and caroled about, quite independent of friends and fiddles. Some broke out in scraps of wild melody, some harangued and talked verse, and each seemed happy; the peculiar and varied wanderings and delusions of all creating, on the whole, a most curious effect. The entertainment lasted two or three hours; and the effect (says the *Bristol Times*) was not merely pleasant, but seemed to be salutary.

ROASTING A BOY ALIVE.—On Wednesday, the 10th instant, one of the most barbarous acts ever known to have been committed took place at Silkstone, near Barnsley, by which a young boy, named Charles Chappel, had a narrow escape from death, even if he yet recovers. The case is reported to be as follows:—On the men giving over work at Mrs Clark's colliery, several young men began with their foolish work of jesting and skylarking in the cabin, in which was, as usual, a large fire, which ultimately ended in two of them taking and fastening a chain round the waist of Charles Chappel, by which they hung him to an iron bar which crosses the roof a short distance from the fire, and, before leaving him threw a large shovel of fire upon him, some of which fell into one of the poor fellow's clogs, which burnt him dreadfully (his eyes and different parts of his person being much burnt); so much so, that the cries of the poor boy caused some persons to go to his assistance, who extricated him from his perilous situation. On Wednesday last, a young man was remanded by John Thorneley, Esq., at Barnsley, for examination until Friday, charged with the above offence. The others are not apprehended.—*Doncaster Gazette*.

DEATH PUNISHMENTS.—The Rev. G. Harris delivered, on Tuesday evening, a third lecture in the Athenæum, Sunderland, on substitutes for death punishments. On this occasion, the lecture room being too small, the large hall was put in requisition, and was crowded. Not only the floor, but the galleries also were filled. Andrew White, Esq., J.P., again took the chair.—*Gateshead Observer*.

THE NEW DAILY PAPER.—Amongst other noble-men of rank who will be supporters of the *Daily News*, his Grace of Chatsworth will be an extensive shareholder. It is said that letters from Mr Dickens' fertile pen, giving an account of his recent travels on the continent, will form an interesting feature in the first volume.

DEATH OF WILLIAM KNIBB.

The *Jamaica Baptist Herald* of the 18th of November announces the melancholy intelligence of the sudden death of William Knibb, the Baptist missionary, and staunch advocate of the rights of the negro and of civil and religious liberty.

"It is with feelings of the deepest anguish," says the editor of that journal, "we record the most afflictive dispensation of Divine Providence that has occurred since the commencement of the Baptist mission in this island.

"Our much beloved friend and fellow-labourer, the Rev. William Knibb, departed this life at Kettering, on the morning of Saturday, the 15th instant, at twenty-minutes before 10 o'clock, of yellow fever, after a brief illness of only four days.

"It was our melancholy privilege to be present with our departed brother, from the commencement of his last illness, to the termination of his earthly career; and it will afford his numerous friends in this island, and in England, much gratification to know, that all that medical skill and kind attention could do to check the progress of the disease and to allay suffering, was done, and that the end of our lamented brother was emphatically one of peace. He entered into his rest enjoying calm and unshaken confidence in the perfect atonement of the Son of God. One of his last expressions, while he yet retained the possession of his faculties, was, 'A guilty, weak, and helpless worm, on Jesus' arm I fall.'

"In the removal of this eminent patriot and Christian missionary, the Baptist mission has sustained an irreparable loss; his valuable partner and children have been deprived of a most affectionate husband and father; we have lost a faithful friend; the churches of which he was the spiritual instructor for a period of fifteen years, a devoted pastor; and the victims of tyranny, oppression, and cruelty, an unflinching and eminently successful advocate.

"On Sunday, the following morning, at eleven o'clock, the remains of our beloved brother were carried by six of the deacons from the mission-house to the chapel, followed by some members of the family, several missionary brethren and sisters, the deacons and leaders of the neighbouring churches, with others (who had come thirty or forty miles for the occasion), most of the respectable inhabitants of the town, and an immense and orderly concourse of people to the number of 8000.

"As the mournful procession passed along the street, nothing was heard but the sounds of suppressed grief; but when the corpse was carried into the chapel, the vast assembly could no longer control their emotions; they felt that their father and their friend was no more, they lifted up their voices and wept."

In a letter dated Nov. 22, Mr Oughton of Kingston gives the following particulars of the cause of his decease:—"He expired last Saturday, the 15th inst., at Kettering, after an illness of only four days. On the preceding Sabbath he baptized 45 persons, and preached in the evening, apparently in the enjoyment of his usual health; but, after the service, he returned home in the rain, and on Tuesday was smitten with the fatal fever which, in a short time, deprived the church at Falmouth of its pastor—the mission, of one of its most honoured and distinguished agents, and the oppressed negro, of one of his most untiring and successful advocates."

Of William Knibb's early life, says a writer in the *Patriot*, from whom we borrow the annexed sketch, our information is exceedingly scanty. We understand that he was born at Kettering, in Northamptonshire, and that he was in due time apprenticed to a printer in the city of Bristol; where, it may be presumed, he made an early profession of religion, inasmuch as it is known that he was little more than of age when he first went out to Jamaica, and that he had previously addicted himself to the useful work of a Sunday-school teacher.

Mr William Knibb, with his wife, sailed for Jamaica, in November, 1824, to supply the place of his elder brother, Mr Thomas Knibb, who left England with his wife on the 10th of December, 1822, and died in May, 1824, at Kingston, Jamaica, leaving the Free-school connected with Mr Coultard's church without a master. The ship was nearly lost in a tremendous gale off Beachy Head. He was hailed by the poor negroes with shouts of welcome, he was "so like him brother." In September or October, 1829, the declining state of Mr William Knibb's health rendered his removal from Kingston necessary, and he joined the mission in the north-west part of the island, taking charge of Ridgeland, in connexion with Savanna-la-Mar. On the death of Mr Mann, he removed, at the invitation of the church of Falmouth. In April, 1831, this church comprised 885 members. It was on the 16th of December in the same year, that Mr Knibb received the first information of symptoms of insubordination on the part of the negroes. Mr Knibb, in common with his brethren, did his utmost to restrain and rebuke the insurgents in their violent and incendiary riots. Nothing, however, could appease the malice of his enemies. On the 1st of January, 1832, he, in common with his brethren, was torn from his wife and their infants, to be confined in the militia. Under pretext of alarming intelligence from Montego Bay, he was arrested and sent to head-quarters, not being allowed either to see his wife, or even to write to her. He and his brethren soon found that they were held answerable for the crimes of the negroes; and, to all appearance, death by the hands of the executioner awaited them. From this terrible situation they were released by Mr Roby, collector of customs, who, though no friend of missionaries, had too much love of justice to witness such an outrage unmoved. At his interposition the

magistrate admitted them to bail, Mr Roby being Mr Knibb's security. This gentleman was employed by the authorities to prevail upon them to leave the island; but, conscious of their innocence, and also of their duty, they steadily declined. To save their lives, however, from the fury of the whites, they took refuge on board a King's ship, from which, nevertheless, they were repulsed on the miserable pretence of want of accommodation.

In February, Mr Knibb was released, his enemies being constrained to admit that there was no evidence to support a criminal prosecution. In March, however, such a prosecution was instituted against him; and, although every attempt had been made to conceal the intention till the last moment, yet, on the day of trial, no fewer than 300 witnesses were assembled to prove his innocence. Need we wonder that, in the face of such an array, the Attorney-general preferred entering a *nolle prosequi*? Meantime the destruction of chapels and other mission premises had begun, and on the 7th of February, Mr Knibb's chapel at Falmouth was razed to the ground by the men of the St Ann's regiment; and on his return, Mr Knibb himself was assailed in his lodgings, and threatened with extreme personal violence. Shortly after his liberation, Mr Knibb assisted General Miller, at his own request, in an examination of the prisoners at Montego Bay. The result was, to make it more evident than ever, that the missionaries, so far from having instigated the insurgents, had done their utmost to restrain them, to prevent an outbreak, and afterwards to moderate its fury and curtail its duration.

The other missionaries agreed that Mr Knibb should proceed to England, and, in unison with Mr Burchell, lay a correct representation of the state of the mission before the British public. Mr Knibb accordingly sailed with his family on the 26th of April, 1832, and reached this country in the beginning of June, attending the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society, at Spaffields chapel, on the 21st of June. Most memorable day! Hitherto, the committee had strictly enjoined upon their missionary agents the entire avoidance of all questions of a political nature—an injunction not more rigidly enforced than consistently obeyed. Mr Knibb, however, now boldly declared, that the Society's missionary stations could no longer exist in Jamaica without the entire and immediate abolition of slavery. The prudent secretary had given him a previous admonition to be moderate; and just as he had assured the audience, already excited to a pitch of enthusiastic indignation, by his woeful tale of slaughtered negroes, imprisoned missionaries, and ruined chapels, that the negroes would never be allowed to worship God in peace till slavery was entirely abolished, the same cautious functionary, apprehensive of the Society being irretrievably committed to the cause of abolition, significantly plucked the tale of the speaker's coat. "It was a solemn moment," relates Dr Cox, in his excellent "History of the Baptist Mission," "and the man was made for it." He paused—gave a lightning glance at the awful atrocities of the past, the glorious possibilities of the future, and the grandeur of his own position, as encompassed with terrible responsibilities, standing on the brink of immortal fame or disgrace—then, concentrating all his energies of thought, and feeling, and voice, he exclaimed—"Whatever may be the consequence, I WILL SPEAK. At the risk of my connexion with the Society and all I hold dear, I will avow this; and, if the friends of missions will not hear me, I will turn and tell it to my God; nor will I desist till their greatest of crimes, slavery, is removed, and 'Gory to God in the highest,' inscribed, as it was upon the British flag!" The resolution was decisive. Then sounded the knell of slavery. Mr Knibb carried the meeting, and subsequently the whole country, with him, and in May, 1833, Mr (now Lord) Stanley introduced to the House of Commons his celebrated bill for the abolition of slavery throughout the British colonies. The history of the parliamentary struggle need not be here pursued. As for Mr Knibb, his appeals to the public and to the government on behalf of the mission were responded to by both; the former nobly responding to the claims of Christian charity, and the latter to those of simple justice.

It was in the autumn of 1834 that Mr Knibb, accompanied by Mr Burchell, returned to Jamaica, where they were welcomed with exceeding joy. On the 14th of February, the foundation stone of the re-edified chapel at Falmouth was laid. Mr Knibb now applied himself with renewed assiduity to the promotion of education; and on the 26th of September, 1835, he began to build a Lancasterian institution in Trelawney for children of all denominations. His new chapel was opened on the 16th of April, 1836, under circumstances of unparalleled interest. So large was the attendance, that six preachers were simultaneously engaged in addressing as many sections of the gathered multitude.

The history of Mr Stanley's miserable scheme of negro "apprenticeship" is familiar to every reader. The premature termination of that transition state was foreshadowed by the voluntary arrangements of Mr Knibb's own flock. After due reflection, he mentioned to them his own conviction of the sinfulness of holding apprentices, who were in reality slaves, and desired those of them who were in that predicament to think upon the subject. Excepting three persons, only, all promised at once to free their apprentices, and their noble example was extensively followed.

It was on the 1st of August, 1838, that all the slaves were declared by law entirely free. Mr Knibb congregated his people the night before, and as the clock began to strike twelve, called upon them to enter, exclaiming, as the twelfth vibrated on their ears, "The monster is dead! The negro is free!

Three cheers for the Queen!" The call, we need not say, was promptly obeyed; and, as morning dawned, the monster, under the appropriate emblems of whips and fetters, collected in a coffin, appropriately inscribed, was ceremoniously buried amid suitable rejoicings. Thus did Mr Knibb live to realise, to the letter, the resolution he had first expressed in Spaffields chapel.

Mr Knibb's next measure for the benefit of the negro was the purchase, by the aid of friends in England, of a tract of ground, with a view of furnishing independent residence and occupation hereafter for the peasantry, who might thus find their own subsistence, and strengthen the interests of the colony. He also created a Normal school at the village of Kettering, in Trelawney, for the training of the native and other schoolmistresses for both Jamaica and Africa. Another great fact is also inseparably connected with his illustrious career. We refer to the resolution adopted by the missionaries in January, 1842, to detach themselves from the funds of the parent society after the 1st of August then next ensuing. On this occasion, Mr Knibb was once more deputed to visit England, to give a statement of the condition of the churches, and also to promote the native African mission and the establishment of a theological seminary, as auxiliary to that object. This was the second time that Mr Knibb had brought the subject under the notice of the friends of missions in England. He had, on a previous visit to this country—namely, in 1840, succeeded in inducing the committee to entertain the design; and, in point of fact, the mission was commenced by the embarkation of Messrs Clarke and Prince, for Fernando Po, on the 13th of October, 1840.

But this was not the last occasion of his visiting his native land. In the spring of the present year, his face was once more seen in the flesh, and then for the last time. The scene had again changed. Once more he was again destined to be the bearer of evil tidings. The chains of slavery had been struck off, and the rod of the oppressor broken in pieces; but the disposition to tyrannise and oppress remained, and with an ingenuity in which cruelty and injustice seldom fail, had, in spite of abolition, found new means of indulgence. Taxation furnished the cords of the new scourge.

The mission of Mr Knibb was to obtain pecuniary aid to the oppressed and exhausted churches. Need we add, that he succeeded? Again he bade adieu to England, and returned to the country of his adoption. On the 1st of July he paid a public farewell to his friends in this country; and, a few days after, left the shores of England.

So serious a loss to the cause of missions will, doubtless, be generally noticed by Christian ministers in this country, especially by those of his own denomination. Mr Aldis will preach a funeral sermon for Mr Knibb, at Maze Pond, next Sunday morning; Mr Stovel, on Sunday evening, at Prescot Street chapel; and Mr Davis, at Salter's Hall chapel.

DEATH OF LORD WHARNCLIFFE.—On Friday, in the 70th year of his age, the Right Hon. James Archibald Stuart Wortley, first Lord Wharncliffe, departed this life at his residence in Curzon street. The deceased lord had been indisposed for the last fortnight, and, owing to his illness, was unable to attend the Cabinet council, or Privy council, on Wednesday se'nnight, at Osborne house, but not the slightest apprehensions were entertained but that his lordship would recover. At a *post mortem* examination on Sunday morning, it was ascertained that the immediate cause of his dissolution was an effusion on the brain. A vacancy is thus created in the representation of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the Hon. John Stuart Wortley being called to the House of Lords, by the title of Lord Wharncliffe. By the death of the late lord, the lord-lieutenancy of the West Riding becomes vacant. It is in the gift of the Premier.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN CHETWODE, BART., M.P.—We have to record the demise of Sir John Chetwode, Bart., M.P. for Buckingham, who expired on Wednesday last, at his marine residence at Bognor, Sussex, at an advanced age.

LONDON PEACE SOCIETY.—The secretary of this society (the Rev. John Jefferson), has visited this town during the present week, and delivered four lectures in explanation of the society's principles and objects, and with a view, at this critical juncture of international affairs, to excite increased attention to the claims of pacific principles as the true safeguard and glory of a great nation such as ours. During the week a meeting of a number of the society's friends in this town was held, at which it was resolved to remodel the Birmingham auxiliary to the London society. A committee was chosen, and a treasurer and secretaries appointed. It is expected that a public meeting will shortly be held in connexion with this important object. Mr Stokes, Baptist minister of this town, has just completed a very encouraging tour through Lincolnshire on behalf of the London Peace Society. At Boston, Lincoln, and other large towns he was heard attentively by numerous audiences, and Christians of all denominations united to aid him in his labours. The Wesleyan Methodists readily granted him the use of their spacious and splendid chapels at Boston, Horncastle, Lincoln, Market Rasen, and other places. Large numbers of persons signed the petitions for arbitration, and throughout the country there has appeared a growing aversion to enlistment and war. —*Birmingham Pilot*.

A gentleman near Liverpool, who adopted the recommendation of the Irish Scientific Commissioners, and put all his potatoes in dry sand, found them on examination a few days since all rotten.

THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

FOR

A REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS.

GREAT LEAGUE MEETING AT COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

On Wednesday evening, pursuant to announcement, a League meeting was again assembled within the walls of Covent Garden theatre. Long before the hour of meeting, the streets around this large building were crowded with the respectable inhabitants of the metropolis of both sexes, anxious to obtain admittance; but even St Paul's would have been inadequate to hold the disciples of Cobden, of Bright, of Villiers, and of Fox, and thousands had to content themselves with waiting until the reporters and printers had finished their diurnal task. It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons were assembled on the occasion; and, when it is stated that 30,000 applications for tickets were made, it gives some idea of the interest attached to the operations of the League. We, ourselves, were in the neighbourhood of the theatre at half-past six o'clock, provided with a stage ticket, expecting, in our simplicity, to find little difficulty in obtaining admittance. After about an hour's jostling in a crowd similarly circumstanced, we succeeded only in getting within sight of the door, and, finding all attempts to obtain admission hopeless, were obliged to give up the task in despair. Mr Charles Villiers, M.P., presided, in the absence of Mr George Wilson, chairman of the League. On the platform were Mr Cobden, Mr James Pattison, and some half dozen Liberal members of Parliament; some gentlemen connected with the City, manufacturers from the north, and several country gentlemen and farmers.

The CHAIRMAN, in allusion to the present exigencies of the country, said:—

If Lord John is really for the abolition of the corn laws, and Sir Robert Peel does really agree with him, why should Lord John not accept the commission of the Crown to form a government, and form it exclusively on the principle, or for the purpose, of abolishing the corn laws; and let Sir R. Peel, if he is sincere, and his resignation implies that he is so, let him give Lord J. Russell his unqualified, strenuous, and faithful support, in and out of the House of Commons, for this purpose; and then let this powerful, and spirited, and intelligent Association, throw their weight into the scale, and devote all their power and energy to the support of both parties. If this was done in good faith, and promptly, he did not believe that the month of February would pass away without the statute-book of this country being at last relieved from the foulest blot that ever disfigured it, or the laws of any Christian, civilised, and commercial community [loud cheers]. Where would be the strength of the opposition to such a combination, if it was really rested upon the simple common ground of total abolition? and with that prospect, why should it not be instantly formed?

Mr COBDEN was received with a perfect hurricane of applause. Almost every person in the theatre rose spontaneously, and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs was universal. When the enthusiasm had somewhat abated, the hon. gentleman proceeded to address the meeting. He exhorted the Free-traders not to be too ready in throwing up their caps; because there is always most danger when people are least on their guard in this wicked world. He should not consider the work done until he saw, wet from the printer's, the act containing the total abolition of the corn laws. He had always predicted that more than one cabinet would be knocked up in the course of this agitation. The ministers in 1841 took the corn law as the last desperate dose, to cure them of lingering disease: it proved fatal. The last government had died of the corn law: let its fate be a warning to its successors. It was not yet known why Sir Robert Peel had run away from his own handywork, the law of 1842—why he had bolted—nor how he meant to deal with it in future. He should look for explanation with much interest; and he presumed that the Baronet would help them to do what he was unable to accomplish with his refractory cabinet. Mr Cobden did expect that straightforward course. But he insisted on total and immediate repeal, the time for all compromise having passed.

There are people who tell us that this corn law must not be suspended suddenly, that it must not be dealt with rashly and precipitately, and that if we are to have the repeal of the corn law, it must be done gradually, step by step. Well, gentlemen, that might have been in the eyes of some a very statesmanlike way of doing it six or seven years ago. Some people would have thought last year, when wheat was at forty-seven shillings a quarter, that if a law had been passed then providing for the extinction of the corn laws in two or three years, that that would have been no very bad measure to have been obtained; but who will propose now to pass a law imposing a fixed duty on corn next spring, to go off 3s. or 4s. the spring after, and 3s. or 4s. the spring after that, till it comes to nothing? That would not suit the exigencies of the present movement [hear]. Our wise legislature, our wise Conservative statesmen, would not deal with this question when they might have dealt with it with some advantage to their own policy. We were pressing on the government to deal with the corn laws last year and the year before, when wheat was at forty-seven shillings a quarter, but we were told then we were rash men; that the corn law had not had a fair trial; that ours was not the way to deal with it; that we must wait to see how it worked. Well, now they are seeing how it has worked [laughter]. But there is no time for temporising now. Nature has stepped in; Providence has interfered, and has inflicted a famine upon the land, and set at naught all the contrivance, delay, and modifications of statesmen. They have but one way of dealing with this question. It is of no use asking us for a feather-bed to drop our aristocracy upon; they might have had a feather-bed, if there had been one to offer them; but there is no feather-bed for them now [loud cheers]. They must have the total and immediate

repeal of the corn laws; not because the League has demanded it; not out of any deference to the Shibboleth of clubs like ours. No, we do not ask them to bow to any such dictation as that; we will not inflict any unnecessary humiliation upon our land-owners; but they have put off this good work so long, until nature has stepped in, and now they must bow to the law of nature without any delay [loud cheers]. Gentlemen, we meet parliament next session—I take it for granted—with but one proposition before us, that is, the immediate and total abolition of the corn laws [cheers]. No minister can take office without proposing that measure, whether Sir Robert Peel or Lord John Russell. I defy them to take office and come before Parliament without the Queen's speech proposing that measure [cheers].

The next session of parliament—

I want to get into the House of Commons again to have some talk about that question. Oh, it is very heavy work I assure you—it is heavier work to come into these enthusiastic meetings and talk of this question, for we meet no opponents. I do not know how it is, but I have that quality of combativeness, as phrenologists call it, and, unless I meet with some opposition, I am as dull as ditch-water [cheers and laughter]. Well, there is no man to be 'ound at large [laughter] out of the House of Commons who can be got, in public, to say a word in defence of the corn laws—that is, you cannot hear any attempted defence out of their own protection societies, and you know they are privileged people [cheers and laughter]. I am anxious to meet them in the House of Commons upon this subject; but it will be an odd scene when we assemble next session, for we shall not know where to sit [laughter]. There will be such greetings in the lobbies, one asking the other, "On which side are you going to sit?" And then, the greatest curiosity of all, the greatest subject of interest will be to see where Sir R. Peel is to sit [renewed laughter]. I should not wonder if we shall not have to find him a chair, and put him in the middle of the floor [cheers and laughter]. Now, I shall be somewhat interested in witnessing the arguments that will be used by the protectionists in defence of this corn law. Recollect, the debate will come on with reference to the exigency of the moment. The corn law must be suspended instantly if Lord John Russell takes office (he will be a bold man if he does); but if he does, I suppose he will either suspend the law the next day by an order in council, or he will call us together, and he will throw down his proposition—either you must suspend that corn law at once, or I will not hold office a week [cheers]. Then the debate will turn as to the necessity of suspending this corn law; and we shall have gentlemen getting up from Dorsetshire and Essex [laughter], protesting that there is abundance of everything in the country—that there is no scarcity at all, no potato rot, and that there is a full average quantity and quality of wheat [cheers and cries of "Plenty of curry"]. Then I should not wonder, gentlemen, if we were to hear some moral receipts for feeding the people. You know Dr Buckland has lately been publishing a paper read at Oxford to the Ashmolean Society, I believe, and he has shown that people can live very well on peas, can get on tolerably well upon beans, and, if there is nothing else to be had, they can live pretty well upon mangel wurzel; and he gives an instance of one good lady who lived, I do not know how many days, by sucking the starch out of her white pocket handkerchief [roars of laughter]. Now, mangel wurzel, starch, and beans, mixed with a little curry powder, would do very well [renewed laughter]. Well, gentlemen, we shall have a division as well as a debate. I should like to see the names of those gentlemen in the House of Commons who will vote against opening the ports—that is, the men who will decree that we shall not be treated as well as the Prussians, the Turks, the Poles, and the Dutchmen; if they out-vote us upon that proposition, we shall have a general election. I should like to see some of those curry powder candidates that go down to their constituents. I would advise you to get doses of the curry powder ready; a little hot water, and a pinch of curry powder, stirred together, makes a man very comfortable to go to bed with, they say. Try it upon some of the protectionist candidates [laughter].

On certain conditions Mr Cobden gave Sir R. Peel a qualified promise of support:—

For myself, I have no reason to feel any very great respect for Sir Robert Peel. He is the only man in the House of Commons that I could never speak a word to in private without forfeiting my own respect. But, though I say that, and though I am justified in saying it, yet I will add, that so deeply have I this question of the corn laws at heart, that if Sir Robert Peel will take the same manly, straightforward part that Lord John Russell has taken—if he will avow an intelligible course of action, without any mystification—I will as heartily co-operate with him as with any man in the House of Commons.

Mr Cobden rejected the notion of consenting to any "terms"; and to those who may venture to demand them he threatened an ulterior movement, in the shape of another league for obtaining a fair adjustment of taxation. [As we have referred to this part of Mr Cobden's speech elsewhere, it is unnecessary to repeat his observations in this place.] Mr Cobden alluded to two of the new adherents to the movement. Some who join the ranks of the Repealers seem disposed to kick their schoolmaster as they come in:—

I observed in the newspaper a letter from a gentleman, whose name I almost forget—a Mr Vernon Smith—who writes to his electors of Northamptonshire, and declares his adhesion to our principles; but in the concluding paragraph he says that he may be a little paradoxical perhaps, but he was of opinion that the progress of free trade had been accelerated by the arguments of the monopolists, and retarded by the violence of the League. Well, we don't boast of our converts even when they are worth converting; but when we are charmed with violence, and charged by Mr Vernon Smith, too—whom I have sometimes suffered the infliction of listening to in the House of Commons—I say that, considering we are a great national school, I think if we do sometimes fall a little out of temper some allowance ought to be made for the kind of scholars we have to teach; and I must say that a duller scholar than Master Vernon Smith schoolmaster never had.

Mr O'Connell's adhesion was hailed with unqualified satisfaction, and with hints of a *quid pro quo*:—

We have every reason, in the Anti-corn-law League,

to feel indebted to Mr O'Connell for the uniform and consistent course which he has taken with reference to the corn laws. From the beginning he has acted and co-operated with us, both in our great meetings and in the House of Commons. I never considered Mr O'Connell as acting on English grounds, but always as acting for the benefit of his own countrymen in Ireland when co-operating with us for a repeal of the corn laws; because we have had the best possible proofs in the continued misery and semi-starvation of the Irish people, that whatever good the corn law has done to the land-owners in England, it has done nothing for the people of Ireland, who never feed on anything better than lumper potatoes. Then, on Irish grounds, and on English grounds, I am glad to have an opportunity of co-operating with Mr O'Connell. I rejoice that, on this question, at all events, there can be no line of demarcation drawn between England and Ireland. Our interests and theirs are identical. They want more bread, God knows, in Ireland; and, if we can help O'Connell to give it to them, they shall have it.

A warning was given to the new Minister, that there must be "no temporising":—

I have confidence in Lord J. Russell; I think if you have his word, you have his bond [hear, hear]. I do not know at this moment whether he will take office or not, but if he does, and has Lord Morpeth and Lord Grey associated with him, you are as safe with them as you are with Lord John Russell himself. I do not know who besides he may have [a voice, "Yourself." Most enthusiastic cheering and waving of hats and handkerchiefs]. Yes, I will be the watchman so long as bad characters are abroad. But, gentlemen, Lord John may have some difficulty, perhaps, in making up a Cabinet as willing to stick to the principles of free trade as himself; and he may not find them quite so willing to coerce those refractory legislators as he may wish. We must back him, gentlemen [cheers]; we must show him the power we can give him to carry this question [tremendous cheers]. They talk of Lord John Russell having made a mistake in putting out that letter to the citizens of London. I have heard some mean and shabby people say, if he had not put out that letter, how much freer he would have been now. Why, Lord John Russell would have been nothing now without that letter [cheers]. The Queen would not have sent for him without that letter [renewed cheers]. Lord John Russell would no more have commanded the people's confidence, or excited their hopes or enthusiasm without that letter, any more than Sir Robert Peel himself would have done. Gentlemen, it is a proof not only of the vitality of the principle, that without joining the League, he did not join us by the mere enunciation of a principle which the people quite understand and feel. Lord John Russell, as if by change of a magic lantern, became from the most obscure the most popular and prominent man of his day [loud cheers].

In concluding his graphic and interesting speech, Mr Cobden said:—

One thing, however, was certain, that the best portion of both political parties had joined the League, and at the same time the League stood aloft amidst the ruin of all factions. The League would go neither to the right hand nor to the left—it would swerve not a hair's breadth, and if the League only maintained its ground for six months longer, proceeding as successfully as it had hitherto proceeded, the association would be dissolved into its primitive elements by the triumph of its own principles [loud cheers].

Mr BRIGHT next came forward, and was received with enthusiastic cheering. He began by a comprehensive portraiture of the rise of the manufacturing and industrious class within the last fifty years. A glance at the state of parties, protection societies, the game laws, &c., followed. The hon. gentleman concluded by calling upon all who had the means to qualify and register:—

The people now consisted of large numbers; they were backed by wealth, by intelligence, and by a thorough knowledge of their political rights; they also possessed a weapon far better than any weapon that could be wielded by physical force. They could use the 40s. freehold. That was the weapon with which they were to acquire laurels, without engaging in contests upon bloody fields, but by merely making their appearance at the hustings and in the registration courts. He did hope that the people would bear in mind how great a panic had been created by the very name of these 40s. freeholders. That small weapon which had been hidden in the Reform act and in the old constitution would lay the hereditary peerage in the dust [loud applause].

Mr W. J. FOX followed Mr Bright, and was honoured with the like applause with which the previous speakers were greeted. Mr Fox delivered one of the most splendid orations which have ever been spoken within the walls of Covent Garden theatre. Frequently during its delivery, and when the speaker was approaching a climax in his perorations, the immense assembly held its "breath for a time," and the fall of a pin could have been heard in any part of the house. The speech altogether, if we were to judge only by its reception, was of a very effective nature, applause and deep and solemn silence alternating in the vast audience. We have only room for two short extracts. The first is a significant hint to the Whigs on their re-entrance into office:—

I would say further to this party, in coming in, "Identify yourselves with the people; sympathise more with them than you have been accustomed to do in this matter" [loud cheers]. No doubt some of the noble members of that party are amongst the most illustrious, titled or untitled, that the country now bears; but still for all that, for all one's gladness to see them there, the old familiar names, if not in every case the old familiar faces; still for all that, it does not accord with the tone and temper of the English people at this time—it does not agree with the feeling and notions which this agitation has fostered and matured in their minds, that we should be altogether under the government of lords, though they be Whig lords, or that the business of the country should not have some men of business, trained in the ranks where alone they can best acquire the knowledge of such practical transactions. For some of these country looks, I need not say in what direction; but it anticipates and demands, that

the Commons of England be represented in the cabinet [loud cheers]. As they may not be so open to admonition when once they are snugly housed in Downing-street, I will go on a little further to say, that they will be wise to whip themselves up more closely to a level with public opinion, and that especially if they aspire again to be the leaders of this nation. There must be real leading of the country—leading it on; and it will not do for them to sit like the gods of Epicurus, in the clouds, enjoying their own leisure and dignity, and looking down on mankind in their toils and struggles.

The second is a reference to the Duke of Wellington:—

There was a third party in this struggle—or rather one man who carried a party in his pocket [a laugh]. It was a melancholy thing that the European honours and the European name of the individual to whom he referred should be tarnished, in the later years of his life, by struggling against the rights of his countrymen with regard to the free importation of food at a time of apprehended scarcity. They could not yet say—

“Down Marlborough's cheeks the tears of dotage flowed,” but they might remind the noble duke to whom he referred—on whose brows were the laurels of a hundred fights, and in whose pockets were the proxies of eighty peers [a laugh], that the fall of the great general whom he conquered—Napoleon—might be dated from the issue of his Berlin decrees [“Hear, hear,” and cheers]. Powerful against armies—resistless with monarchs, Napoleon entered into conflict with the laws of trade, and they crushed him like a weed [cheers]. From that circumstance they might deduce this moral—that no political ascendancy, no power of station, no strength of party, no antiquity of prestige, could successfully maintain a conflict against the laws of nature, of which, as Edmund Burke had taught them, the laws of trade were part and parcel [cheers].

Mr Fox concluded by earnestly urging his auditors not to relax their efforts for the accomplishment of the important object they had in view, and concluded amidst the hearty and vigorous cheers of the meeting. The vast meeting separated at half-past ten o'clock, with three thundering cheers for free trade, Mr Cobden acting as fugleman.

MONSTER MEETING IN THE WEST RIDING.

The meeting at Wakefield is very important. It was convened by Sir William Bryan Cooke, the high sheriff, on a requisition signed by many of the leading landowners and manufacturers of the West Riding, and it was held at noon on Wednesday. The attendance was exceedingly numerous; most of the great flax spinners of Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, and adjoining towns, gave their workpeople a holiday on the occasion. Special trains ran during the day from several stations on the Midland, Leeds, and Manchester lines. Hustings were erected at the town house, and the spacious area in front, and the lanes and avenues communicating with it, were occupied by attentive listeners. On the platform were the High Sheriff, Lord Stourton, Mr C. Wood, M.P., Mr Busfield, M.P., Mr W. B. Wrightson, M.P., Mr W. R. C. Stanfield, M.P., Mr J. Parker, M.P., with many landed proprietors and manufacturers from Leeds, Halifax, Sheffield, Bradford, and other places. The resolutions were of the usual tenor. The first was moved by Mr Fawkes, of Farnley hall, a large landed proprietor and leading Whig in the district.

Mr MARSHALL exhorted the thousands before him to uphold with stern resolve the principle of free trade. Mr CHARLES WOOD wished to throw aside all party feeling under existing circumstances; remarking, that what he called upon them to do was “to tell, whatever government might be formed in the country, that, in the opinion of the inhabitants of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the corn laws must be abolished.” The other speeches were of the same animated and exultant kind: Mr RAND, of Bradford, exclaimed—“Although a Conservative, I will vote for Lord Morpeth, when he next stands for the West Riding.”

Free trade meetings still continue to be held throughout the country. During the past week meetings have been held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Wolverhampton, Gravesend, Stockton, Bridgeton, Gorbals, St Clement Dane's, Alnwick, Maidstone, Portsmouth, Devonport, Greenwich, and in various parts of London. Most of them have been held on requisition to the local authorities.

In Scotland almost every town and village has now made itself heard.

FREE TRADE MOVEMENT.—We are glad to find that active committees have been formed in Bath and Bristol, since the recent free trade meetings in those cities, for the purpose of promoting the enfranchisement of Free-traders in East Somerset, West Gloucester, and North Wilts—a proceeding at all times constitutional, and more than ever necessary at the present crisis. A forty-shilling freehold may, by means of these committees, be so easily obtained, that we hope to hear of many hundred applications, and that the conveyances have been duly made before the 30th of January next.—*Bath Journal*.

PROTECTIONIST MEETINGS.

The protectionists have not been inactive, though their activity has not been at all so extensive or so determined as that of the Free-traders. The threatened repeal of the corn laws, and the conduct of the late Premier, have been angrily discussed at Dorchester, Lewes, Maidstone (for West Kent), Rugeley, and other places. At the West Kent meeting Sir Robert Peel was vehemently accused of apostasy, and other offences against the agricultural interest.

At the dinner which followed the Lewes fat-stock show, on Monday, a vehement ebullition of feeling broke out towards the close of the evening, on political topics. So long as the Earl of Chichester

remained in the chair politics were avoided; but his retirement was the signal for an inroad into the forbidden ground. Mr John Ellman was called to the vacant seat; and, after referring to the “momentous crisis,” he gave a toast which expressed a hope that the Sussex farmers would prove true to their “colours.” Mr Hallett wished to know what the “colours” were to which Mr Ellman was referring, and where the Sussex farmers were to find them? Did he mean Peel's “colours”? The Chairman said he did not; but he meant the colours under which Sir Robert Peel fought in 1842, when he obtained his majority, but which he had now abandoned; and, for doing so, he would brand him as a renegade and a deserter [great cheering]. Mr Hallett, wishing to bring on an argument in order to inculcate free-trade doctrines, pressed for a more definite description of the “colours;” and the Chairman said that they meant the upholding of the present protection. This led to an uproarious, desultory, and resultless squabble, diversified by bumpers to the Duke of Wellington and Mr Sidney Herbert, the latter gentleman described by the Chairman as a “more honest man than Sir Robert Peel.”

PREPARATIONS FOR A GENERAL ELECTION.

CANDIDATES FOR NORWICH.—The following requisition to Sir W. Foster, Bart., and S. M. Peto, Esq. (the well-known contractor, who is brought forward on the part of the Dissenters), has been circulated among the electors, and, in a very short time, obtained several hundred signatures:—“To Sir William Foster, Bart., and Samuel Morton Peto, Esq.—We, the undersigned, electors of the city of Norwich, respectfully request that you will become candidates for the representation of this city in parliament, at the next general election, as advocates of the total repeal of the corn laws, and supporters of the general principles of civil, religious, and commercial freedom.”—*Norfolk News*.

DERBY.—The following declaration has been agreed to and subscribed by several of the Dissenting pastors and others of the town of Derby, under the impression that a general election is probably at hand:—

We, the undersigned, believing that the appropriation, by the state, of any part of the public finances, for the support of any hierarchy, or any religious sect or party, is alike opposed to the spirit of Christianity, to social justice, and to the welfare of the people; and having seen the spirit of parliament, in the grant recently made to the college of Maynooth, and also the declared intention of many of our legislators to provide for the clergy of the church of Rome by state pay; do, therefore, hereby declare, that we conscientiously object to vote for any candidate who will not oppose all grants of public money for religious purposes; and seek to place all the subjects of these realms on a footing of perfect equality in the eye of the law, notwithstanding their differences of religious faith and worship.

LEEDS.—The *Leeds Times* suggests Mr Joseph Hume as a candidate for that borough. It is thought that Mr J. G. Marshall or Mr Hamer Stansfield will be the local candidate.

THE WEST RIDING BOROUGH.—Halifax will most probably return its present members; though a less aristocratic, and more thoroughly liberal, man than Charles Wood were very much to be desired. Huddersfield, too, may be considered safe, though, we think, it might considerably better itself. Wakefield, we understand, has resolved on returning Daniel Gaskell, its former member. Pontefract ought to send Mr Gully—where could it find a truer patriot or firmer friend? What of Knaresborough? There is George Goodman, of Leeds—a sterling man and a thorough Liberal.—*Leeds Times*.

BIRMINGHAM.—Already the Conservatives are in the field, and the Whigs, we understand, will not be far behind. The candidates in the one interest are understood to be Mr Spooner and Mr Serjeant Allen; those in the other, Mr Scholefield and Mr Recorder Hill. That Mr Sturge will be nominated, and, as at last election, chosen by the people of Birmingham, as one candidate, is taken for granted; and, should this be the case, the allusion he made on Monday to the course of conduct he felt it to be his duty to pursue at last election, leaves no doubt that he will respond to the call, and, without fear or favour, go through the poll.—*Birmingham Pilot*.

LEICESTER.—Sir John Easthope having retired, and it being doubtful whether Mr Ellis would stand (it being necessary, as a preliminary in his case, that the “fixtures” at the last election should be cleared off) there has been considerable activity during the week in preparing for a dissolution. The public feeling is in favour of Colonel Perronet Thompson and John Biggs, Esq. The Complete Suffragists and supporters of the anti-state-church cause have each held meetings and passed resolutions in support of the above named gentlemen. With regard to the latter body, the *Leicester Mercury* says:—“Previously to any prospect of a dissolution, a committee had been formed for analysing the register and organising the strength of Voluntarism in the borough. The committee met yesterday week, and again on Wednesday, when several other gentlemen from the various congregations were also present. We have had no specific resolution forwarded to us; but we are able to state that a communication, received by an individual member, from Colonel Thompson, was laid before the committee, and that the manner in which he will vote upon the ecclesiastical question is satisfactory to them, and that there was a general feeling in his favour. It appeared, also, to be the general wish that Mr John Biggs should be the other candidate, and a deputation was appointed to wait upon him. At an ad-

joined meeting, holden on Thursday evening, it was unanimously resolved:—

“That the report of the deputation appointed to wait upon John Biggs, Esq., is perfectly satisfactory to this meeting; and that this committee fully approve and intend to support Colonel Perronet Thompson and John Biggs, Esq., as suitable persons for the representation of this borough in the House of Commons, should they be put in nomination.”

BRADFORD.—The free-trade electors of Bradford met on Friday forenoon, at the Temperance hall in that town, when not less than five hundred voters were present, including some of the most influential in the town. The meeting was a most enthusiastic one, and was perfectly unanimous in its decision that Mr Busfield, one of present representatives of the town, and the veteran free-trader, Colonel Thompson, should be brought out in the event of an election taking place. There was some very slight difference of opinion on the part of one gentleman, who, however, expressed his willingness to support Colonel Thompson, if the meeting should determine to bring him out. Greater unanimity could not possibly have been looked for in a meeting of this character; and we are happy to hear that there is every prospect of the two gentlemen selected being carried, if an election takes place. A requisition to Colonel Thompson, originated at the meeting, has since been lying for the signature of the electors.—*Leeds Times*. [The requisition has already received 250 signatures, and there is no doubt before it is presented it will have a clear majority of the electors appended to it.]

THE REPRESENTATION OF HERTFORDSHIRE.—Mr Spencer Cowper, in the anticipation of a general election at an early period, declines to contest the county with Mr Halsey at the present vacancy, but has announced his intention of coming forward at the next opportunity.

VACANCY FOR THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.—The unexpected death of Lord Wharfedale, Lord President of the Council, calls Mr John Stuart Wortley to the peerage, and thus occasions a vacancy in the House of Commons for the West Riding of Yorkshire. A more important trial of strength could not possibly have been selected than one for that county division—spacious, populous, and wealthy—agricultural and manufacturing. It will be a sample for the general election, and will put the League to their mettle. The *Times* recommends Lord Morpeth as a candidate. Such a recommendation, from such a quarter, is a “sign of the times” indeed.

RUMOURS IN LIVERPOOL.—In the event of a dissolution, Sir Henry Pottinger is spoken of as the free-trade candidate for Liverpool, supposing Lord Sandon adheres to Sir Robert Peel's policy; and another is to be named only in the event of the noble lord, and any proposed colleagues standing on the protection of monopoly interest.—*Liverpool Mercury*. [In other quarters the Hon. Fox Maule and Mr Ewart are spoken of as candidates.]

WORCESTER.—In the event of a general election, it is thought there will be no contest here, and that Sir Thomas Wilde will be allowed to walk over.

PETERBOROUGH.—It is said to be the determination of Sir R. Heron to retire from the representation of this city, in the event of another election. Several candidates are mentioned; and it is quite certain that the Hon. G. W. Fitzwilliam will again stand; of his election there is no doubt.—*Lincoln Mercury*.

BOSTON.—The Reformers of Boston are not likely to remain in their present neutral position, one member blowing hot and the other cold; the next election will again return two Reformers. Mr Brownrigg, it is understood, has abandoned all idea of seeing Boston again.—*Lincoln Mercury*.

GLOUCESTER.—It is said that, should a general election take place, as is expected, John Philpotts, Esq., one of the members for this city, will not again stand. Captain F. Berkeley will, there is no doubt, again come forward.—*Gloucester Chronicle*.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Mr Wawn, M.P. for South Shields, has announced his intention again to offer himself as a candidate, in the event of a dissolution of parliament. His return will be opposed.

WINDSOR.—In anticipation of a dissolution of parliament, Colonel Reid, the late fortunate, but we may, perhaps, also add, unlucky candidate for the representation of Windsor, has commenced re-cavassing the electors. The latter, however, are said at present to fight extremely shy of the Colonel, and many of his former supporters have boldly admitted “that times are now altered.”—*Reading Mercury*.

REPRESENTATION OF GREENOCK.—In the prospect of an early dissolution of parliament, Mr Dunlop is again on the field as a candidate for the representation of this town.

FALKIRK BURGHS.—John Wilson, Esq., of Dundyan, a member of the council of the Anti-corn-law League, has, in compliance with a requisition from nearly five hundred of the electors, consented to become a candidate at the next election.

A NOBLE LECTURER.—On Wednesday evening a lecture was delivered at the Plymouth Mechanics' Institute by Viscount Ebrington, M.P., on the health of towns. The *Plymouth Journal*, which gives a full report of the noble lord's lecture, speaks of it as follows:—“The lecture itself, independently of its elegant, striking, and terse style of composition, will reflect credit and honour, not only on the noble lord individually, but on all, like himself, devoted to the cause of humanity and justice, whose claims he has so ably advocated and enforced.”

METROPOLITAN DRAPERS' ASSOCIATION.—A public *soirée*, on an extensive sale, was held on Thursday at the Hanover-square rooms, in aid of this institution, which has for its object the more general early closing of shops in all trades. The meeting was very numerous attended by some of the most respectable persons engaged in the trade. Mr Wakley, M.P., presided, and in a speech of great length and considerable ability pointed out the advantages which might be expected to ensue from the extension of the principles of the association to other bodies of persons engaged in trades for more hours than was required by necessity. Mr Nash, the secretary, then read a report, giving in detail an account of the present prospects of the society, from which the most favourable hopes might be entertained of its ultimate prosperity. Various sentiments were proposed and spoken to by Dr Lankester, Dr Cumming, Mr Payne, Mr Winkworth, and other gentlemen.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR has just issued a circular letter to the lord-lieutenants of counties, respecting the duties of deputy-lieutenants and division clerks. This is regarded as a preliminary step towards placing the militia regiments on permanent duty.

The late Earl Grey's will has been proved; the personalities, exclusive of the real estate, have been sworn under £44,000. The earl bequeaths £4,000 a-year to his countess, and £200 annually to his daughters, the latter having received marriage portions.

GRATEFUL MUNIFICENCE.—The Earl of Eldon has given £1,000 to each of the following societies in connexion with the church in the counties where the noble earl's estates are situated:—the Salisbury Diocesan Church Building Association, the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Church Building Association, and the Durham Diocesan Society for the Employment of additional Curates. It is said these splendid pecuniary gifts are as a "thank-offering" for the birth of a son and heir to his title and family property.—*Sun*.

THE WOODSTOCK FARCE.—Lord Alfred Spencer Churchill, the second son of the Duke of Marlborough, was elected member for Woodstock, on Thursday, in the room of Lord Loftus, now a peer. The monotony of the proceedings was relieved by the proposal of "Henry Morgan, Esq.," a chimney-sweeper, as an opposition candidate; but the motion found no second. The young member, in returning thanks for his election, assured his constituents that he was a Conservative, "in every sense of word." These periodical farces, the *Times* justly remarks, are, in fact, the severest satires on the representative system.

TOO OLD TO BE RATED.—At the Strand sessions, the other day, application was made on the part of a person named Harris, a housekeeper living in Holywell street, for a remission of the parish rates, on the ground of extreme old age—a hundred and five years. The collector of St Clement's Danes stated, that, on account of the great age of the applicant, he was relieved every quarter. The chairman said that he could not think of taking a rate from such a person.

The last general election was in August, 1841. By law, therefore, the existence of the present parliament would terminate in August, 1848; but, by custom, not later than 1847.

SUPPOSED NEW PLANET, OR COMET.—M. Hencke, of Dresden, has discovered between two stars of the 9th magnitude in Taurus, what he supposes to be a new planet, or comet.

MAKING THE BEST OF IT.—During the flood occasioned by the late high tide, the landlord of the Trinity Arms, at Yarmouth, finding the water rising at his door, closed it, caulked the crevices, and actually served some of his customers, who rowed up in a boat, out at the window.

RESISTANCE TO PHYSICAL SUFFERING.—A posthumous work by Mr Loudon, just published, entitled "Self-Instruction for Young Gardeners," &c., is preceded by an account of the author's life, which presents a remarkable picture of the influence of a strong will in resisting the effects of disease. Such was Loudon's industry, that he sat up two nights of the week to study; when actively engaged, he allowed himself (and others) but four hours for sleep; dictated to two amanuenses at the same time; and rose at four in the morning to overlook a speculation when suffering from severe illness and bodily pain. After submitting to the amputation of an arm, he wished to go to business, as if nothing had happened, and was with difficulty got to bed. He dictated the above-mentioned work, "Self-Instruction," till the midnight before his death, and died standing. "Fortunately," says Mrs Loudon, "I perceived a change taking place in his countenance; and I had just time to clasp my arms around him to save him from falling, when his head sank upon my shoulder, and he was no more." A large brain, and a nervous-bilious temperament, have frequently impelled individuals to efforts of this description, but never perhaps to such an extent as in the present instance. In no case, however, are they to be held up as examples. The harmonious exercise of the entire organisation is essential to the healthy action of each individual organ; and those who attempt to develop to an increased degree the power of the brain, by exercising it to the neglect of the due exercise of the heart, the stomach, the lungs, or any other portion of the system, will soon find, by sad experience, what they would never have doubted with regard to any other structure, namely, that an attempt to strengthen one part at the expense of the other, can only accelerate the destruction of the whole.

DEATH THROUGH EXCESS OF JOY.—On the 12th instant, in London, Henry Solomons, aged 73, died of apoplexy, brought on by excess of joy. He had received an appointment to an almshouse, conferring upon him a house and £30 a year; and such was his joy that he died.

Postscript.

Wednesday, December 24th.

THE MINISTRY.

(From the *Times*.)

At the privy council held at Windsor yesterday, it was determined that parliament should be prorogued from the 30th inst to the 20th of January, then to meet for the despatch of business.

The changes in the constitution of the ministry which its recent return to power will occasion, will be few, and not of any very great importance. Mr Gladstone has succeeded Lord Stanley in the Colonial office, Lord Dalhousie will be called to occupy a seat in the cabinet, Lord St Germans will be appointed Postmaster-general, also probably with a seat in the cabinet, and, for the present at least, there is little probability of further change. The health of the Lord Chancellor will, perhaps, induce him to avoid the fatigues of his laborious office during another session; but his lordship will continue until then to afford his colleagues his valuable assistance in their deliberations.

(From the *Court Circular*.)

WINDSOR, TUESDAY.—The Queen held a court and privy council this afternoon at the Castle. There were present—his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Buccleuch, Sir Robert Peel, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Stanley, Mr William Ewart Gladstone, Sir James Graham, Mr Henry Goulburn, the Earl of Haddington, Lord Granville Somerset, the Earl of Lincoln, Mr Sidney Herbert, the Earl of Dalhousie, the Earl of Liverpool, and the Earl of Jersey.

Lord Stanley had an audience of the Queen, and delivered to her Majesty his seals of office as one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

The Queen having been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone to be one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state (for war and the colonies), he was, by command of the Queen, sworn one of her Majesties principal secretaries of state.

Her Majesty was graciously pleased to appoint Saturday, the 3rd of January next, at Windsor castle, for the reception of the address of the corporation of the city of London on the corn laws.

The council broke up at half-past three o'clock.

After the court the Duke of Wellington left in his traveling carriage for Strathfieldsaye. Most of the cabinet ministers left the Castle at the same time, and returned to town by a special train by the Great Western railway.

The Earl of Liverpool also left after the council.

Sir Robert Peel remained at the Castle on a visit to her Majesty.

We understand that the Earl of Harwood will succeed the late Lord Wharfedale as Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire.—*Morning Chronicle*.

THE LATE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.—The *Morning Chronicle* gives another version of the facts which led to Sir R. Peel's resignation:—

On a certain day, Sir Robert Peel propounded to his Cabinet a certain measure, or set of measures, having for their object more or less of change in the existing corn laws; but what was the exact nature of such measure or measures no man knows—no man out of the present government. The policy so proposed by Sir Robert Peel was approved by himself—at least, so it is believed—and by the Duke of Wellington, Sir James Graham, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Lincoln, and Mr Sidney Herbert. The *Times*, it now appears, was utterly wrong in its attacks on the Duke. He did not like meddling with the corn laws, but acquiesced in what Sir Robert Peel proposed; and said he would, if he wished it, propose the repeal in the House of Lords. This he said at the outset, and to this he stuck to the end. He never deserted Sir Robert and did not upset his government. We cannot ascertain precisely what course Mr Goulburn took. There is some slight doubt also about the Duke of Buccleuch. Those who certainly thought they understood matters of finance better than Sir Robert Peel, and condemned his policy, were Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Stanley, Lord Haddington, Lord Ripon, Lord Granville Somerset, and the late Lord Wharfedale.

In consequence of their opposition, Sir Robert Peel broke up his government. He now forms it again, with the exception of Lord Stanley, who has resigned, and poor Lord Wharfedale, who is since dead.

"What, then," says the *Chronicle*, "can be that measure which the recalcitrant members of the cabinet could not sanction a fortnight ago, but can sanction now?"

THE £250,000 LEAGUE FUND.

£250,000 RAISED IN A FEW HOURS.

Last night the League commenced its new financial campaign at the Town hall, Manchester, and on a scale unexampled in the history even of English munificence. £250,000 was raised before the meeting closed. From 1,500 to 2,000 persons were present; R. H. Greg, Esq., in the chair; and the leading manufacturers of the town and neighbourhood, including Messrs Cobden and Bright, attended on the occasion. Previous to the announce-

ment of subscriptions, a financial statement of the £100,000 League fund was given, from which it appears that there is a balance in hand of £12,033 11s. 1d. The total amount of the receipts were £122,508 1s. Resolutions appropriate to the object of the meeting having been proposed and carried, the bidding commenced, and was carried on with scarcely a moment's breathing time for upwards of two hours, and the scene was one of intense excitement and unflagging interest throughout. The following firms were then announced as contributors to the amount of £1,000:—R. H. Greg, Esq.; Mr Chadwick, of Eccles; Mr Thomasson, Bolton; Lawrence Heyworth, Liverpool; J. Kershaw; T. Hoyle and Sons; Mr J. Brooks; Robert Ashton; Thomas Bailey and Brothers; Robert Platt; Robert Lees and Sons; John Whittaker and Sons, Ashton; John Bright and Brothers; S. Ashton, of Pole Bank, and James Ashton, of Pole Bank; Thomas Ashton, Esq., Ashton; James King and Sons, Rochdale; T. Booth, J. Hoyle, and T. Hoyle; Peter Dixon and Sons, Manchester and Carlisle; J. Eccles, Mill hill, near Blackburn; Eccles, Shorrocks, and Co., Darwen; H. and E. Ashworth, Turton; Pilkington, Brothers, and Son, Blackburn; James Buckley, John Buckley, and Nat. Buckley, £500 each, one family, £1,500; W. Bailey and Brothers; R. Platt; R. Lees and Sons; Alexander Henry; and A. and F. Reynier. Then came the announcements of subscriptions for £500, and downwards, but of these the list so numerous, that we cannot find space for it. Mr Cobden's name was among the contributors of £500. One family—that of the Mathers, of Mount Pleasant, Liverpool—subscribed between them £700, conditionally, on the League going for actual repeal, without compromise. The list included names from all parts of Lancashire. During a pause in the subscription, Mr Cobden addressed the meeting. He said that only twenty per cent. of the present fund would now be called for; the remainder would be a reserve fund—that, if Sir R. Peel would take an honest, straightforward course, and propose a total repeal, he would have the support of the League and the country as fully as any other minister—and that, if the next session did not bring this question to a just settlement, the League would plant its registration agents in every county of the kingdom; and he pledged himself, from careful study and investigation of the subject, that, in less than three years, backed by the funds now placed at their disposal, they would unseat 100 county monopolist members. The meeting was also addressed by Mr Bright, Mr J. Heywood, Mr Whitley (of the United States), and Mr Brotherton. The amount subscribed at the meeting of the League, in the same room, two years ago, was £14,000.

The *Times* authoritatively denies the truth of the story about the Queen wishing Prince Albert to be appointed commander-in-chief, in case of the Duke of Wellington's resignation.

THE WEST RIDING ELECTION.—The Liberals have had a private meeting of its leading members, and they have resolved upon sending a deputation, with a requisition, to Lord Morpeth. The general opinion is, that his lordship will be elected without opposition, in case of an isolated election; but, if there be a general election, the Conservatives will start, if not two, at all events one candidate.—*Times' Correspondent*.

CASE OF THE TORY.—Captain Johnstone, late master of the Tory, was yesterday, after a lengthened examination, committed to take his trial at the Central Criminal Court, for the wilful murder of Thomas Reason, William Mars, and Rumbert; also on the charge of feloniously wounding Stephen Cone, Thomas Lee, David Johnson, Thomas Gair, Joseph Ruelan (Morris), Wm Burton, Robert Thompson, Andrew Nelson, Wm Beresford, and Peter Curtis.

A NEW PLANET.—In a letter to the *Times* of this morning, Professor Airy gives the result of M. Hencke's observations of the new star discovered near the constellation Taurus. He is inclined to believe it to be a new planet.

Notwithstanding Mr Polk's warlike message, the funds rose yesterday. This is attributed to Sir R. Peel's return to power.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—At the weekly meeting on Monday, Mr O'Connell addressed the meeting at great length on the ministerial crisis:—

That day week he concurred with Mr Smith O'Brien, who called for an hurrah for repeal, and no compromise. He repeated his words—he was in favour of repeal and no compromise—no postponement [loud and continued cheers]. Nothing should delay them in their career—nothing should drive them from the pursuit of their object [cheers]. . . . They knew that he had no great liking for Peel: he was well aware what kind of a honied trickster he was, but he was equally ready to support him upon the corn law question, and he would vote for him upon every motion that had for its object to make bread plentiful and cheap [cheers].

He then proceeded to praise Lord John Russell for his behaviour in reference to the ministerial crisis, and to describe the distress of the country. Rent for the week, £213 18s. 2d.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English ..	230	1420	710			
Scotch						
Irish		900	19120			
Foreign ..	4330		2580			

The market remains the same as on Monday.

the Commons of England be represented in the cabinet [loud cheers]. As they may not be so open to admonition when once they are snugly housed in Downing-street, I will go on a little further to say, that they will be wise to whip themselves up more closely to a level with public opinion, and that especially if they aspire again to be the leaders of this nation. There must be real leading of the country—leading it on; and it will not do for them to sit like the gods of Epicurus, in the clouds, enjoying their own leisure and dignity, and looking down on mankind in their toils and struggles.

The second is a reference to the Duke of Wellington:—

There was a third party in this struggle—or rather one man who carried a party in his pocket [a laugh]. It was a melancholy thing that the European honours and the European name of the individual to whom he referred should be tarnished, in the later years of his life, by struggling against the rights of his countrymen with regard to the free importation of food at a time of apprehended scarcity. They could not yet say—

"Down Marlborough's cheeks the tears of dotage flowed," but they might remind the noble duke to whom he referred—on whose brows were the laurels of a hundred fights, and in whose pockets were the proxies of eighty peers [a laugh], that the fall of the great general whom he conquered—Napoleon—might be dated from the issue of his Berlin decrees ["Hear, hear," and cheers]. Powerful against armies—resistless with monarchs, Napoleon entered into conflict with the laws of trade, and they crushed him like a weed [cheers]. From that circumstance they might deduce this moral—that no political ascendancy, no power of station, no strength of party, no antiquity of prestige, could successfully maintain a conflict against the laws of nature, of which, as Edmund Burke had taught them, the laws of trade were part and parcel [cheers].

Mr Fox concluded by earnestly urging his auditors not to relax their efforts for the accomplishment of the important object they had in view, and concluded amidst the hearty and vigorous cheers of the meeting. The vast meeting separated at half-past ten o'clock, with three thundering cheers for free trade, Mr Cobden acting as fugleman.

MONSTER MEETING IN THE WEST RIDING.

The meeting at Wakefield is very important. It was convened by Sir William Bryan Cooke, the high sheriff, on a requisition signed by many of the leading landowners and manufacturers of the West Riding, and it was held at noon on Wednesday. The attendance was exceedingly numerous; most of the great flax spinners of Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, and adjoining towns, gave their workpeople a holiday on the occasion. Special trains ran during the day from several stations on the Midland, Leeds, and Manchester lines. Hustings were erected at the town house, and the spacious area in front, and the lanes and avenues communicating with it, were occupied by attentive listeners. On the platform were the High Sheriff, Lord Stourton, Mr C. Wood, M.P., Mr Busfield, M.P., Mr W. B. Wrightson, M.P., Mr W. R. C. Stanfield, M.P., Mr J. Parker, M.P., with many landed proprietors and manufacturers from Leeds, Halifax, Sheffield, Bradford, and other places. The resolutions were of the usual tenour. The first was moved by Mr Fawkes, of Farnley hall, a large landed proprietor and leading Whig in the district.

Mr MARSHALL exhorted the thousands before him to uphold with stern resolve the principle of free trade. Mr CHARLES WOOD wished to throw aside all party feeling under existing circumstances; remarking, that what he called upon them to do was "to tell, whatever government might be formed in the country, that, in the opinion of the inhabitants of the West Riding of Yorkshire, the corn laws must be abolished." The other speeches were of the same animated and exultant kind: Mr RAND, of Bradford, exclaimed—"Although a Conservative, I will vote for Lord Morpeth, when he next stands for the West Riding."

Free trade meetings still continue to be held throughout the country. During the past week meetings have been held at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Wolverhampton, Gravesend, Stockton, Bridgeton, Gorbals, St Clement Dane's, Alnwick, Maidstone, Portsmouth, Devonport, Greenwich, and in various parts of London. Most of them have been held on requisition to the local authorities.

In Scotland almost every town and village has now made itself heard.

FREE TRADE MOVEMENT.—We are glad to find that active committees have been formed in Bath and Bristol, since the recent free trade meetings in those cities, for the purpose of promoting the enfranchisement of Free-traders in East Somerset, West Gloucester, and North Wilts—a proceeding at all times constitutional, and more than ever necessary at the present crisis. A forty-shilling freehold may, by means of these committees, be so easily obtained, that we hope to hear of many hundred applications, and that the conveyances have been duly made before the 30th of January next.—*Bath Journal*.

PROTECTIONIST MEETINGS.

The protectionists have not been inactive, though their activity has not been at all so extensive or so determined as that of the Free-traders. The threatened repeal of the corn laws, and the conduct of the late Premier, have been angrily discussed at Dorchester, Lewes, Maidstone (for West Kent), Rugeley, and other places. At the West Kent meeting Sir Robert Peel was vehemently accused of apostasy, and other offences against the agricultural interest.

At the dinner which followed the Lewes fat-stock show, on Monday, a vehement ebullition of feeling broke out towards the close of the evening, on political topics. So long as the Earl of Chichester

remained in the chair politics were avoided; but his retirement was the signal for an inroad into the forbidden ground. Mr John Ellman was called to the vacant seat; and, after referring to the "momentous crisis," he gave a toast which expressed a hope that the Sussex farmers would prove true to their "colours." Mr Hallett wished to know what the "colours" were to which Mr Ellman was referring, and where the Sussex farmers were to find them? Did he mean Peel's "colours?" The Chairman said he did not; but he meant the colours under which Sir Robert Peel fought in 1842, when he obtained his majority, but which he had now abandoned; and, for doing so, he would brand him as a renegade and a deserter [great cheering]. Mr Hallett, wishing to bring on an argument in order to inculcate free-trade doctrines, pressed for a more definite description of the "colours;" and the Chairman said that they meant the upholding of the present protection. This led to an uproarious, desultory, and resultless squabble, diversified by bumpers to the Duke of Wellington and Mr Sidney Herbert, the latter gentleman described by the Chairman as a "more honest man than Sir Robert Peel."

PREPARATIONS FOR A GENERAL ELECTION.

CANDIDATES FOR NORWICH.—The following requisition to Sir W. Foster, Bart., and S. M. Peto, Esq. (the well-known contractor, who is brought forward on the part of the Dissenters), has been circulated among the electors, and, in a very short time, obtained several hundred signatures:—"To Sir William Foster, Bart., and Samuel Morton Peto, Esq.—We, the undersigned, electors of the city of Norwich, respectfully request that you will become candidates for the representation of this city in parliament, at the next general election, as advocates of the total repeal of the corn laws, and supporters of the general principles of civil, religious, and commercial freedom."—*Norfolk News*.

DERBY.—The following declaration has been agreed to and subscribed by several of the Dissenting pastors and others of the town of Derby, under the impression that a general election is probably at hand:—

We, the undersigned, believing that the appropriation, by the state, of any part of the public finances, for the support of any hierarchy, or any religious sect or party, is alike opposed to the spirit of Christianity, to social justice, and to the welfare of the people; and having seen the spirit of parliament, in the grant recently made to the college of Maynooth, and also the declared intention of many of our legislators to provide for the clergy of the church of Rome by state pay; do, therefore, hereby declare, that we conscientiously object to vote for any candidate who will not oppose all grants of public money for religious purposes; and seek to place all the subjects of these realms on a footing of perfect equality in the eye of the law, notwithstanding their differences of religious faith and worship.

LEEDS.—The *Leeds Times* suggests Mr Joseph Hume as a candidate for that borough. It is thought that Mr J. G. Marshall or Mr Hamer Stansfield will be the local candidate.

THE WEST RIDING BOROUGH.—Halifax will most probably return its present members; though a less aristocratic, and more thoroughly liberal, man than Charles Wood were very much to be desired. Huddersfield, too, may be considered safe, though, we think, it might considerably better itself. Wakefield, we understand, has resolved on returning Daniel Gaskell, its former member. Pontefract ought to send Mr Gully—where could it find a truer patriot or firmer friend? What of Knaresborough? There is George Goodman, of Leeds—a sterling man and a thorough Liberal.—*Leeds Times*.

BIRMINGHAM.—Already the Conservatives are in the field, and the Whigs, we understand, will not be far behind. The candidates in the one interest are understood to be Mr Spooner and Mr Serjeant Allen; those in the other, Mr Scholefield and Mr Recorder Hill. That Mr Sturge will be nominated, and, as at last election, chosen by the people of Birmingham, as one candidate, is taken for granted; and, should this be the case, the allusion he made on Monday to the course of conduct he felt it to be his duty to pursue at last election, leaves no doubt that he will respond to the call, and, without fear or favour, go through the poll.—*Birmingham Pilot*.

LEICESTER.—Sir John Easthope having retired, and it being doubtful whether Mr Ellis would stand (it being necessary, as a preliminary in his case, that the "fixtures" at the last election should be cleared off) there has been considerable activity during the week in preparing for a dissolution. The public feeling is in favour of Colonel Perronet Thompson and John Biggs, Esq. The Complete Suffragists and supporters of the anti-state-church cause have each held meetings and passed resolutions in support of the above named gentlemen. With regard to the latter body, the *Leicester Mercury* says:—"Previously to any prospect of a dissolution, a committee had been formed for analysing the register and organising the strength of Voluntarism in the borough. The committee met yesterday week, and again on Wednesday, when several other gentlemen from the various congregations were also present. We have had no specific resolution forwarded to us; but we are able to state that a communication, received by an individual member, from Colonel Thompson, was laid before the committee, and that the manner in which he will vote upon the ecclesiastical question is satisfactory to them, and that there was a general feeling in his favour. It appeared, also, to be the general wish that Mr John Biggs should be the other candidate, and a deputation was appointed to wait upon him. At an ad-

joined meeting, holden on Thursday evening, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That the report of the deputation appointed to wait upon John Biggs, Esq., is perfectly satisfactory to this meeting; and that this committee fully approve and intend to support Colonel Perronet Thompson and John Biggs, Esq., as suitable persons for the representation of this borough in the House of Commons, should they be put in nomination."

BRADFORD.—The free-trade electors of Bradford met on Friday forenoon, at the Temperance hall in that town, when not less than five hundred voters were present, including some of the most influential in the town. The meeting was a most enthusiastic one, and was perfectly unanimous in its decision that Mr Busfield, one of present representatives of the town, and the veteran free-trader, Colonel Thompson, should be brought out in the event of an election taking place. There was some very slight difference of opinion on the part of one gentleman, who, however, expressed his willingness to support Colonel Thompson, if the meeting should determine to bring him out. Greater unanimity could not possibly have been looked for in a meeting of this character; and we are happy to hear that there is every prospect of the two gentlemen selected being carried, if an election takes place. A requisition to Colonel Thompson, originated at the meeting, has since been lying for the signature of the electors.—*Leeds Times*. [The requisition has already received 250 signatures, and there is no doubt before it is presented it will have a clear majority of the electors appended to it.]

THE REPRESENTATION OF HERTFORDSHIRE.—Mr Spencer Cowper, in the anticipation of a general election at an early period, declines to contest the county with Mr Halsey at the present vacancy, but has announced his intention of coming forward at the next opportunity.

VACANCY FOR THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.—The unexpected death of Lord Wharfedale, Lord President of the Council, calls Mr John Stuart Wortley to the peerage, and thus occasions a vacancy in the House of Commons for the West Riding of Yorkshire. A more important trial of strength could not possibly have been selected than one for that county division—spacious, populous, and wealthy—agricultural and manufacturing. It will be a sample for the general election, and will put the League to their mettle. The *Times* recommends Lord Morpeth as a candidate. Such a recommendation, from such a quarter, is a "sign of the times" indeed.

RUMOURS IN LIVERPOOL.—In the event of a dissolution, Sir Henry Pottinger is spoken of as the free-trade candidate for Liverpool, supposing Lord Sandon adheres to Sir Robert Peel's policy; and another is to be named only in the event of the noble lord, and any proposed colleagues standing on the protection of monopoly interest.—*Liverpool Mercury*. [In other quarters the Hon. Fox Maule and Mr Ewart are spoken of as candidates.]

WORCESTER.—In the event of a general election, it is thought there will be no contest here, and that Sir Thomas Wilde will be allowed to walk over.

PETERBOROUGH.—It is said to be the determination of Sir R. Heron to retire from the representation of this city, in the event of another election. Several candidates are mentioned; and it is quite certain that the Hon. G. W. Fitzwilliam will again stand; of his election there is no doubt.—*Lincoln Mercury*.

BOSTON.—The Reformers of Boston are not likely to remain in their present neutral position, one member blowing hot and the other cold; the next election will again return two Reformers. Mr Brownrigg, it is understood, has abandoned all idea of seeing Boston again.—*Lincoln Mercury*.

GLOUCESTER.—It is said that, should a general election take place, as is expected, John Philpotts, Esq., one of the members for this city, will not again stand. Captain F. Berkeley will, there is no doubt, again come forward.—*Gloucester Chronicle*.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Mr Wawn, M.P. for South Shields, has announced his intention again to offer himself as a candidate, in the event of a dissolution of parliament. His return will be opposed.

WINDSOR.—In anticipation of a dissolution of parliament, Colonel Reid, the late fortunate, but we may, perhaps, also add, unlucky candidate for the representation of Windsor, has commenced re-cavassing the electors. The latter, however, are said at present to fight extremely shy of the Colonel, and many of his former supporters have boldly admitted "that times are now altered."—*Reading Mercury*.

REPRESENTATION OF GREENOCK.—In the prospect of an early dissolution of parliament, Mr Dunlop is again on the field as a candidate for the representation of this town.

FALKIRK BURGHS.—John Wilson, Esq., of Dundyan, a member of the council of the Anti-corn-law League, has, in compliance with a requisition from nearly five hundred of the electors, consented to become a candidate at the next election.

A NOBLE LECTURER.—On Wednesday evening a lecture was delivered at the Plymouth Mechanics' Institute by Viscount Ebrington, M.P., on the health of towns. The *Plymouth Journal*, which gives a full report of the noble lord's lecture, speaks of it as follows:—"The lecture itself, independently of its elegant, striking, and terse style of composition, will reflect credit and honour, not only on the noble lord individually, but on all, like himself, devoted to the cause of humanity and justice, whose claims he has so ably advocated and enforced."

METROPOLITAN DRAPERS' ASSOCIATION.—A public *soirée*, on an extensive sale, was held on Thursday at the Hanover-square rooms, in aid of this institution, which has for its object the more general early closing of shops in all trades. The meeting was very numerous attended by some of the most respectable persons engaged in the trade. Mr Wakley, M.P., presided, and in a speech of great length and considerable ability pointed out the advantages which might be expected to ensue from the extension of the principles of the association to other bodies of persons engaged in trades for more hours than was required by necessity. Mr Nash, the secretary, then read a report, giving in detail an account of the present prospects of the society, from which the most favourable hopes might be entertained of its ultimate prosperity. Various sentiments were proposed and spoken to by Dr Lankester, Dr Cumming, Mr Payne, Mr Winkworth, and other gentlemen.

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THE WOODSTOCK FARCE.—Lord Alfred Spencer Churchill, the second son of the Duke of Marlborough, was elected member for Woodstock, on Thursday, in the room of Lord Loftus, now a peer. The monotony of the proceedings was relieved by the proposal of "Henry Morgan, Esq.," a chimney-sweeper, as an opposition candidate; but the motion found no seconder. The young member, in returning thanks for his election, assured his constituents that he was a Conservative, "in every sense of word." These periodical farces, the *Times* justly remarks, are, in fact, the severest satires on the representative system.

TOO OLD TO BE RATED.—At the Strand sessions, the other day, application was made on the part of a person named Harris, a housekeeper living in Holywell street, for a remission of the parish rates, on the ground of extreme old age—a hundred and five years. The collector of St Clement's Danes stated, that, on account of the great age of the applicant, he was relieved every quarter. The chairman said that he could not think of taking a rate from such a person.

The last general election was in August, 1841. By law, therefore, the existence of the present parliament would terminate in August, 1848; but, by custom, not later than 1847.

SUPPOSED NEW PLANET, OR COMET.—M. Hencke, of Dresden, has discovered between two stars of the 9th magnitude in Taurus, what he supposes to be a new planet, or comet.

MAKING THE BEST OF IT.—During the flood occasioned by the late high tide, the landlord of the Trinity Arms, at Yarmouth, finding the water rising at his door, closed it, caulked the crevices, and actually served some of his customers, who rowed up in a boat, out at the window.

RESISTANCE TO PHYSICAL SUFFERING.—A posthumous work by Mr Loudon, just published, entitled "Self-Instruction for Young Gardeners," &c., is preceded by an account of the author's life, which presents a remarkable picture of the influence of a strong will in resisting the effects of disease. Such was Loudon's industry, that he sat up two nights of the week to study; when actively engaged, he allowed himself (and others) but four hours for sleep; dictated to two amanuenses at the same time; and rose at four in the morning to overlook a speculation when suffering from severe illness and bodily pain. After submitting to the amputation of an arm, he wished to go to business, as if nothing had happened, and was with difficulty got to bed. He dictated the above-mentioned work, "Self-Instruction," till the midnight before his death, and died standing. "Fortunately," says Mrs Loudon, "I perceived a change taking place in his countenance; and I had just time to clasp my arms around him to save him from falling, when his head sank upon my shoulder, and he was no more." A large brain, and a nervous-bilious temperament, have frequently impelled individuals to efforts of this description, but never perhaps to such an extent as in the present instance. In no case, however, are they to be held up as examples. The harmonious exercise of the entire organisation is essential to the healthy action of each individual organ; and those who attempt to develop to an increased degree the power of the brain, by exercising it to the neglect of the due exercise of the heart, the stomach, the lungs, or any other portion of the system, will soon find, by sad experience, what they would never have doubted with regard to any other structure, namely, that an attempt to strengthen one part at the expense of the other, can only accelerate the destruction of the whole.

DEATH THROUGH EXCESS OF JOY.—On the 12th instant, in London, Henry Solomons, aged 73, died of apoplexy, brought on by excess of joy. He had received an appointment to an almshouse, conferring upon him a house and £30 a year; and such was his joy that he died.

Postscript.

Wednesday, December 24th.

THE MINISTRY.

(From the *Times*.)

At the privy council held at Windsor yesterday, it was determined that parliament should be prorogued from the 30th inst to the 20th of January, then to meet for the despatch of business.

The changes in the constitution of the ministry which its recent return to power will occasion, will be few, and not of any very great importance. Mr Gladstone has succeeded Lord Stanley in the Colonial office, Lord Dalhousie will be called to occupy a seat in the cabinet, Lord St Germans will be appointed Postmaster-general, also probably with a seat in the cabinet, and, for the present at least, there is little probability of further change. The health of the Lord Chancellor will, perhaps, induce him to avoid the fatigues of his laborious office during another session; but his lordship will continue until then to afford his colleagues his valuable assistance in their deliberations.

(From the *Court Circular*.)

WINDSOR, TUESDAY.—The Queen held a court and privy council this afternoon at the Castle. There were present—his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Buccleuch, Sir Robert Peel, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Stanley, Mr William Ewart Gladstone, Sir James Graham, Mr Henry Goulburn, the Earl of Haddington, Lord Granville Somerset, the Earl of Lincoln, Mr Sidney Herbert, the Earl of Dalhousie, the Earl of Liverpool, and the Earl of Jersey.

Lord Stanley had an audience of the Queen, and delivered to her Majesty his seals of office as one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state.

The Queen having been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone to be one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state (for war and the colonies), he was, by command of the Queen, sworn one of her Majesties principal secretaries of state.

Her Majesty was graciously pleased to appoint Saturday, the 3rd of January next, at Windsor castle, for the reception of the address of the corporation of the city of London on the corn laws.

The council broke up at half-past three o'clock.

After the court the Duke of Wellington left in his traveling carriage for Strathfieldsaye. Most of the cabinet ministers left the Castle at the same time, and returned to town by a special train by the Great Western railway.

The Earl of Liverpool also left after the council.

Sir Robert Peel remained at the Castle on a visit to her Majesty.

We understand that the Earl of Harewood will succeed the late Lord Wharfedale as Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire.—*Morning Chronicle*.

THE LATE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.—The *Morning Chronicle* gives another version of the facts which led to Sir R. Peel's resignation:—

On a certain day, Sir Robert Peel propounded to his Cabinet a certain measure, or set of measures, having for their object more or less of change in the existing corn laws; but what was the exact nature of such measure or measures no man knows—no man out of the present government. The policy so proposed by Sir Robert Peel was approved by himself—at least, so it is believed—and by the Duke of Wellington, Sir James Graham, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Lincoln, and Mr Sidney Herbert. The *Times*, it now appears, was utterly wrong in its attacks on the Duke. He did not like meddling with the corn laws, but acquiesced in what Sir Robert Peel proposed; and said he would, if he wished it, propose the repeal in the House of Lords. This he said at the outset, and to this he stuck to the end. He never deserted Sir Robert and did not upset his government. We cannot ascertain precisely what course Mr Goulburn took. There is some slight doubt also about the Duke of Buccleuch. Those who certainly thought they understood matters of finance better than Sir Robert Peel, and condemned his policy, were Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Stanley, Lord Haddington, Lord Ripon, Lord Granville Somerset, and the late Lord Wharfedale.

In consequence of their opposition, Sir Robert Peel broke up his government. He now forms it again, with the exception of Lord Stanley, who has resigned, and poor Lord Wharfedale, who is since dead.

"What, then," says the *Chronicle*, "can be that measure which the recalcitrant members of the cabinet could not sanction a fortnight ago, but can sanction now?"

THE £250,000 LEAGUE FUND.

£55,000 RAISED IN A FEW HOURS.

Last night the League commenced its new financial campaign at the Town hall, Manchester, and on a scale unexampled in the history even of English munificence. £60,000 was raised before the meeting closed. From 1,500 to 2,000 persons were present; R. H. Greg, Esq., in the chair; and the leading manufacturers of the town and neighbourhood, including Messrs Cobden and Bright, attended on the occasion. Previous to the announce-

ment of subscriptions, a financial statement of the £100,000 League fund was given, from which it appears that there is a balance in hand of £12,033.11s.1d. The total amount of the receipts were £122,508 1s. Resolutions appropriate to the object of the meeting having been proposed and carried, the bidding commenced, and was carried on with scarcely a moment's breathing time for upwards of two hours, and the scene was one of intense excitement and unflagging interest throughout. The following firms were then announced as contributors to the amount of £1,000:—R. H. Greg, Esq.; Mr Chadwick, of Eccles; Mr Thomasson, Bolton; Lawrence Heyworth, Liverpool; J. Kershaw; T. Hoyle and Sons; Mr J. Brooks; Robert Ashton; Thomas Bailey and Brothers; Robert Platt; Robert Lees and Sons; John Whittaker and Sons, Ashton; John Bright and Brothers; S. Ashton, of Pole Bank, and James Ashton, of Pole Bank; Thomas Ashton, Esq., Ashton; James King and Sons, Rochdale; T. Booth, J. Hoyle, and T. Hoyle; Peter Dixon and Sons, Manchester and Carlisle; J. Eccles, Mill hill, near Blackburn; Eccles, Shorrocks, and Co., Darwen; H. and E. Ashworth, Turton; Pilkington, Brothers, and Son, Blackburn; James Buckley, John Buckley, and Nat. Buckley, £500 each, one family, £1,500; W. Bailey and Brothers; R. Platt; R. Lees and Sons; Alexander Henry; and A. and F. Reynier. Then came the announcements of subscriptions for £500, and downwards, but of these the list so numerous, that we cannot find space for it. Mr Cobden's name was among the contributors of £500. One family—that of the Mathers, of Mount Pleasant, Liverpool—subscribed between them £700, conditionally, on the League going for actual repeal, without compromise. The list included names from all parts of Lancashire. During a pause in the subscription, Mr Cobden addressed the meeting. He said that only twenty per cent. of the present fund would now be called for; the remainder would be a reserve fund—that, if Sir R. Peel would take an honest, straightforward course, and propose a total repeal, he would have the support of the League and the country as fully as any other minister—and that, if the next session did not bring this question to a just settlement, the League would plant its registration agents in every county of the kingdom; and he pledged himself, from careful study and investigation of the subject, that, in less than three years, backed by the funds now placed at their disposal, they would unseat 100 county monopolist members. The meeting was also addressed by Mr Bright, Mr J. Heywood, Mr Whitley (of the United States), and Mr Brotherton. The amount subscribed at the meeting of the League, in the same room, two years ago, was £14,000.

The *Times* authoritatively denies the truth of the story about the Queen wishing Prince Albert to be appointed commander-in-chief, in case of the Duke of Wellington's resignation.

THE WEST RIDING ELECTION.—The Liberals have had a private meeting of its leading members, and they have resolved upon sending a deputation, with a requisition, to Lord Morpeth. The general opinion is, that his lordship will be elected without opposition, in case of an isolated election; but, if there be a general election, the Conservatives will start, if not two, at all events one candidate.—*Times' Correspondent*.

CASE OF THE TORY.—Captain Johnstone, late master of the Tory, was yesterday, after a lengthened examination, committed to take his trial at the Central Criminal Court, for the wilful murder of Thomas Reason, William Mars, and Rambert; also on the charge of feloniously wounding Stephen Cone, Thomas Lee, David Johnson, Thomas Gair, Joseph Ruelan (Morris), Wm Burton, Robert Thompson, Andrew Nelson, Wm Beresford, and Peter Curtis.

A NEW PLANET.—In a letter to the *Times* of this morning, Professor Airy gives the result of M. Hencke's observations of the new star discovered near the constellation Taurus. He is inclined to believe it to be a new planet.

Notwithstanding Mr Polk's warlike message, the funds rose yesterday. This is attributed to Sir R. Peel's return to power.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—At the weekly meeting on Monday, Mr O'Connell addressed the meeting at great length on the ministerial crisis:—

That day week he concurred with Mr Smith O'Brien, who called for an hurrah for repeal, and no compromise. He repeated his words—he was in favour of repeal and no compromise—no postponement [loud and continued cheers]. Nothing should delay them in their career—nothing should drive them from the pursuit of their object [cheers]. . . . They knew that he had no great liking for Peel: he was well aware what kind of a honied trickster he was, but he was equally ready to support him upon the corn law question, and he would vote for him upon every motion that had for its object to make bread plentiful and cheap [cheers].

He then proceeded to praise Lord John Russell for his behaviour in reference to the ministerial crisis, and to describe the distress of the country. Rent for the week, £213 18s. 2d.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Pees	Flour.
English ..	230	1420	710			
Scotch....						
Irish		900	19120			
Foreign ..	4330		2580			

The market remains the same as on Monday.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
For 7 lines....6s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
For every additional line..... 4d.

Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Layman." Next week.

"An Attentive Looker-on." We have no room.

TO OUR READERS.

With the present year the *NONCONFORMIST* will close its fifth volume, and complete its first series.

On Wednesday, January 7, 1846, will be presented to the public the first number of a new series—enlarged, remodelled, and, it is confidently trusted, greatly improved.

The principles of the *NONCONFORMIST* will remain, of course, unchanged. It will contend as earnestly as ever for justice as the basis of our political institutions, unrestricted liberty as the soul of commerce, and entire independence of ministerial support and control as essential to the purity and extension of the Christian church.

The spirit in which these great objects will be pursued, will be the same as before—a high appreciation of the ends at which it aims, and an earnest desire to compass them by peaceful and legitimate means. The pervading tone, however, of the paper, it is proposed to modify. The *NONCONFORMIST* has established its character both for integrity and for power—and the circumstances under which this has been accomplished, imposed upon it the necessity of taking an antagonistic attitude. It has had to do battle for its present position of strength—but that position having been made good, it can henceforth wield gentleness with effect. Recognised as having a right to speak, and a claim to be listened to, it will speak in the accents of faithful friendship.

The new series will be distinguished by a greater VARIETY of literary talent. Arrangements are in progress for securing valuable assistance from several able hands, and the superiority of the *NONCONFORMIST* will, it is hoped, be enhanced, by making its editorial articles the reflection of more than one mind, and its correspondence from abroad, direct, frequent, and instructive.

The news department of the paper will be entirely remodelled. It is determined to make it AN INTERESTING FAMILY JOURNAL, as well as an influential organ for the diffusion of sound political and ecclesiastical views. Ampler space for this will be commanded, without enlarging our sheet, by slightly widening and lengthening each column, and by a somewhat more economical distribution of type. By this arrangement, it is calculated, about two pages will be gained.

Solidity and strength have been, hitherto, the characteristic features of the *NONCONFORMIST* newspaper. Without impairing these, it will, in the forthcoming series, combine with them ornament and grace. Its mission is to all classes—and for all classes it will seek to provide entertainment as well as instruction.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, 1845.

SUMMARY.

THE past week has been fertile of important events. In our last number we were in doubt, with the rest of the world, whether Lord John Russell would assume the responsibility of constructing an administration for the purpose of carrying the total and immediate repeal of the corn laws. We assumed that he would; and proceeded to cast up the probabilities of his failure. On Friday morning it was announced to the world, that the noble lord had accepted the Queen's commission, and lists of his cabinet, meant for nothing more than felicitous guesses, got circulation through the clubs at the west end. On Saturday morning the tone of the daily journals made it evident, that there was somewhere an unexpected hitch; and in the evening it was known that Lord John Russell had resigned, and that Sir R. Peel had been sent for and re-instated in office. Earl Grey is rumoured to have been the occasion of this failure. He is stated to have accepted the office of colonial secretary; but, upon learning that Lord Palmerston was to have the Foreign office

assigned to him, to have declared that he was unable to sit at the same council board with the noble ex-secretary. Whether influenced by private pique, or by regard solely to the public weal, it is, of course, impossible to gather. The time of urging the objection seems, to the uninitiated, as ill-chosen, whilst, to many of the wise and patriotic, the objection itself is sufficiently valid. Surely, the country had enough, in 1840 and 1841, of Lord Palmerston's propensity to set nations together by the ears. What might have chanced, upon his resumption of office, in relation to the settlement of the Oregon affair, few men, who value peace, would have been eager to accept. The danger, however, is over, thanks to the firmness or obstinacy, whichever it may be denominated, of Earl Grey. Lord John Russell did his best to remove the scruples of his friend, but without avail; and having, probably, less stomach for his work than some people imagine, he availed himself of this unexpected casualty to back out from his engagement altogether.

Sir R. Peel is again Prime Minister, and he retains all his former colleagues, with the exception of Lord Stanley, whose place will be supplied by Mr Gladstone, and of Lord Wharnccliffe, whose death, in the midst of the ministerial crisis, leaves vacant the presidency of the Council. Sir Robert, therefore, is now free to produce his plan, not yet, we believe, definitely prepared, for the final settlement of the corn-law question. A privy council was held yesterday, and parliament again prorogued to the 20th of January, when it will meet for the despatch of business. The intervention of an embryo free-trade cabinet will operate, with all the foregoing events, to make Peel's measure, we should imagine, a bold and final one. He represents, in his present position, not the agricultural party, but a national necessity. We can conceive of his proposing a total and immediate repeal of the corn laws, accompanied by a removal of the malt tax, which, by whomsoever paid, undoubtedly restricts the demand for barley—a retrenchment of expenditure to the amount of some two millions—and an increase in the per-centage of the tax on real property to the amount of two millions more. This would reconcile his measure to the great body of tenant farmers, place the landlords at further disadvantage by cutting off the wings of their power, and achieve an easy victory even with his present forces. But it is useless to speculate. Peel has usually, except on one or two pressing emergencies, done things by halves. The security of the people rests with their own determination. They must dictate the terms, and leave him only to execute their will.

In the midst of all the excitement consequent upon the ministerial crisis, the packet brings us over President Polk's message to Congress. It will put another strong argument into the mouth of Sir R. Peel, to do whatever he attempts, decisively and promptly. The document is, as usual, a long one—not altogether free from American bluster, but, on the whole, calm, explicit, and determined. Oregon occupies a prominent place in it, as was to have been anticipated. The message declares to Congress that negotiation is at an end, and recommends that twelve months' notice be given to Great Britain of the intention of the United States to terminate the joint occupancy of that territory—that, meantime, American laws be extended over American settlers in Oregon, as British laws are over the British settlers there—that an Indian agency be established beyond the Rocky Mountains—and that a regiment of mounted riflemen be raised to garrison posts between those limits, and the settled territory of the United States. The President recommends a reduction of the tariff of 1842, not to a horizontal level, but to a revenue standard—that is, as he explains it—to a standard which shall have regard merely to the wants of the treasury, and not to the protection of manufacturing classes. Let Sir R. Peel and President Polk be at one in their commercial policy, and Lord Aberdeen will find no difficulty in bringing to an amicable adjustment the territorial dispute.

At this most interesting juncture, and as if for the very purpose of opening the way for the expression of the people's will through one of the most important of its electoral constituencies, the West Riding of Yorkshire becomes vacant by the death of Lord Wharnccliffe, and the consequent elevation of the Hon. Stuart Wortley to the peerage. All eyes are turned towards Lord Morpeth. The *Times* commends him, and vehemently exhorts the electors to place him at the head of the poll. The League will now be tested to its utmost. We can have but little doubt of its success. The number of forty-shilling freeholders placed on the register—the peculiar excitement of the times—the utter disorganisation of political parties—the popularity of the free trade candidate—and the absence of a competitor likely to possess the same influence as the recent member—will all combine to operate favourably for Lord Morpeth. West Riding must not by any means fail. It would embolden monopoly—it would dishearten the friends of Corn-law abolition—it would be like the fainting of a standard-bearer. We have no

fears for the issue, but we confess to considerable anxiety.

The aggregate meeting of the League at Covent Garden theatre, on Wednesday evening, was a splendid demonstration; and the thousands who thronged the doors, but were unable to gain admittance, betokened the hold which the question has taken upon the popular mind. Nor can the declaration of O'Connell, that he would be present in his place in parliament to support the abolition of the corn laws, be regarded as unimportant at the present juncture. Every vote will be wanted, and Mr O'Connell has many votes at his bidding. The protectionists, alarmed at the prospect of what awaits them, are bestirring themselves, and holding meetings of their supporters. Bitter denunciations of the treachery of Peel, swaggering boasts of the vengeance with which they will pursue him, confident denials of the existing scarcity, and avowals of their determination to abide by the sliding scale, constitute the staple of the speeches delivered at these assemblies. The *Times* taunts the protectionists with the non-appearance of clergymen at their meetings: the *Times* probably puts its telescope to its blind eye, and then avers that it is unable to see a single man in black.

Some preparations are being made for the anticipated general election. Norwich, Leicester, Bradford, Birmingham, and other places, are on the move, but in few instances have decisions been sufficiently matured to warrant any public comment upon them.

The overland mail from India and China has arrived; and the intelligence which it brings renders it probable, that the Governor-general has made up his mind to an interference in the affairs of the Punjab. The state is at present at the mercy of the soldiery, and nothing deserving the name of organised government exists. Any one may foresee the course of future events—British interposition—invasion—annexation. Lord Metcalfe, the Governor-general of Canada, has returned to this country, driven hither by ill health, and by the dread of passing another winter in the severe climate of our North American colony. It is rumoured that Sir H. Pottinger will be his successor.

Our task for the week is done. We have summed up events, and made our passing comment upon them. The season, however, is an interesting one, and cannot be passed over without remark. Christmas has again arrived, bringing to many families touching recollections—to many, severe privations—to some, let us hope not a few, domestic joys. Our sympathies are with the first—our help should be freely given to the second—our heartiest congratulations to the last. Life is rolling on—changes are on the wing—disappointments assail all human affairs. There is nothing stable but truth—nothing unchangeable but God. The season of the year may well bring with it sober thoughts, and the review which each may take of his own past failings, may teach all a lesson of charity to his fellow-men. We need not adopt the common compliment of the day; but we earnestly wish for all our readers such measure of earthly good as may be most suitable for them, and especially, the happiness which will endure when the years of time shall have ceased for ever.

THE DEMISE OF PARTY.

THE reign of party is over. The spell, whatever it might be—hope, fear, pride, sense of honour, community of interest—which bound together the "compact majority," is dissolved. The wand of the magician is broken. Peel is again in power—not, as once, to rule, but to serve—not, as formerly, to dictate terms, but to carry them into execution. For ten long years did he employ himself in consolidating the power which forced open for him the door of office—and the arts to which he resorted with a view to the accomplishment of his purpose, surrounded him with tacit pledges, which, as a close network, confined his policy within the narrowest limits. Not a step could he move, in obedience to the promptings of his better judgment, without becoming entangled with some portion of his previous work. No enlightened measure could he propose, without bursting asunder some one or other of the numerous and complicated ties by which he had bound his own hands. The slave of all the duplicity he had found it convenient to practise—the sworn bondsman to his own lie—he never could move in the direction of justice without exposing himself to the charge of treachery. With his eyes open, and with a conscience pricked into activity, he was doomed to suffer the direst penalty of deceit—obey its stern behests, until the service became intolerable. That work which he had taken so much pains to rear, he was compelled, at length, by returning self-respect, to break in pieces. He could do homage to his own pretence no longer. He resigned office, and gained his freedom.

The reign of party is over. Sir Robert Peel is again in office, but the conditions on which he holds it are completely changed. He was the nominee of the monopolists—he is now the instrument of the people. The power with which he

was lately invested he had sought as a boon, and virtually, he was accountable for the use of it to those who, confiding in his professions, had conferred it on him—the power which he now possesses is thrust upon him by the exigencies of his country, and he is bound to employ it solely with a view to its safety and welfare. He had laid himself under obligation to pare down his statesmanship to the narrow limits which a selfish oligarchy could not be prevailed upon to pass—he is now under necessity to enlarge and expand it into sufficient comprehensiveness to satisfy the demands of a determined nation. His main stay was, not long since, upon those who would fain have done nothing—he leans for present support upon those who would leave nothing undone. The good he erewhile attempted he was constrained to do by stealth—he can only do it openly now, and for its own sake. Peel, the Conservative minister, is no more—Peel, the minister of an irresistible public opinion is but newly-born. Leading an oligarchy against a nation, he was vanquished—leading a nation against an oligarchy, he must be victor.

The events of the past few weeks have demolished party, and the conventional has given place to the real. Government, for the next session of Parliament at least, can only sustain itself upon its proper basis—the will of the people. In former times it may have mediately reflected the popular mind—it must do so now directly. When Sir Robert Peel resigned his Premiership, he proclaimed to the world that party, however strong, was but a puny antagonist before a roused and determined empire. When Lord John Russell resigned his commission to construct a Whig administration, he confessed that party was no longer a fitting agency by which for that empire to work out its purpose. Against us it is powerless—for is it inefficient. In the former case, we are too strong for it—in the latter, it is too feeble for us. We have mastered it as a ruler—we find it worthless as an instrument. Combinations among lawgivers can only prosper upon the quiescence of the multitude—when a people take their affairs into their own hands, such combinations are neither feared on the one hand, nor wanted on the other. The Conservatives cannot stand before us as foes—the Whigs cannot take charge of our business as friends. We are beholden to neither—we care for the convenience of neither. Both have shrunk to their own natural dimensions—and, as contrasted with the country which they have alternately cajoled or bullied, both have become contemptible in our eyes.

We look forward to the coming parliamentary session with curious interest. What a novel scene will the House of Commons present! The old law of cohesion abrogated, the new not yet fully developed, the entire aspect of that branch of the legislature will be changed. Dissolved into its primitive elements, it is difficult even to guess at the strange and startling phenomena which may be evolved in the process of internal adjustment and combination. The monopolists, released from a law of clanship which imposed silence on stupidity, and decorum on unreasoning waywardness, will be free to utter the nonsense which will expose, and the wrath which will betray, them. An organised body no longer, we shall at length behold the squirearchy, according to its own un borrowed measure of intellect and of heart. Themselves will be their spokesmen. Their arguments will be all their own. Their tactics, the devices of their own unprompted genius. Peel was their garment, and hid the shame of their nakedness. Next session they will have no such covering, but will stand up before a wondering country, the undressed savages of the political world. We shall hear their war-whoop—we shall see their rude and clumsy weapons of warfare—we shall become familiar with their modes of thought and of action, when the presence of the white man no more keeps them in awe. If the nation be not put out of countenance by such an exhibition, and ask not in indignation, "What puts these men there?" and whence have they received authority to legislate for civilised beings?" then we have greatly overshot our mark.

Nor can we refrain from speculating upon what may be the different tone of the House, when the necessity shall have ceased for concealing principles, and qualifying sentiments, and dealing out arguments, merely with a view to trim the balance of political party—when a great measure shall be brought forward on its own merits—when its author must rely, for success, upon the real statesmanship which it exhibits, the justice with which it is instilled, and its evident adaptation to promote the common weal. It will be a new thing to witness an end of party conflicts—the abandonment of *Hansard* by common consent—and government strengthening its position by confident appeals to first principles, and sheltering itself from assault behind the once condemned rights of an enduring people. If Sir Robert Peel means success, as we take it he does—and if he understands his position, which, perhaps, there is room to doubt, he will base his policy upon what the country really wants, without regard to what the monopolists may be prevailed upon to give. He is now an autocrat,

but he is so only as the servant of the people. Let him beware! He cannot too highly magnify his office; but let him take heed that he do not overestimate himself. What Peel created, Peel could destroy. He formed the Conservative party, and when he left it it was annihilated. But the country owes neither its birth, its strength, nor its wisdom to him; and if he will not do its work, other men can be found who will. The new wine must not be put into old bottles. The conventional notions of party must in nowise guide the policy of statesmen whose parties are, one and all, deceased.

"TEETH-MONEY" TO THE ARISTOCRACY.

THERE has already been some pointing towards the further reforms which the abolition of the corn laws must bring on; and from quarters where the favour could hardly have been expected. It has been the pleasure of the monopolist aristocracy to intimate, that if the corn laws are to be abolished, they must have compensation through the taxes. First, compensation; secondly, through the taxes.

The consideration whereof also divides itself into two heads, or, as they may be called, two times; one of them being the actual present, with which we are most concerned, and the other the future, with which we shall be by-and-by.

The lesson to be drawn from the first is, that there will be no likelihood of getting safely out of the evil of monopoly, unless men will pluck up their hearts sufficiently to go forward with a demand for compensation to the real and honest sufferers. Suppose that in the case of pirates driven to their hold, a doubt were left upon their minds whether compensation to the robbed was part of the intended consequences, what would, or what could, be the result, but that the shattered sear-pirates would pluck up heart to ask how much the honest men meant to bid for the cessation of their nuisance? There is no novelty in the fact that, whenever the public was strong enough to put down, its intention was to demand a compensation for itself. The very earliest publication that took hold of the public mind on the subject of the corn laws, laid down that a tax on rent, to be called the Compensation Rent-tax, of an amount not indeed pretending to any equality with the evil, which is impossible, but sufficient to operate to the discouragement of future mischief,—not absurdly exaggerated in amount, but calculated on a fair estimate of the value of perpetual, as compared with present, value,—would be what the character and safety of the country would demand. If the injured interests have not the vigour to make this demand, they must take the inevitable consequence. No negotiation with highwaymen ever stood upon a needle's point. Either the honest men must be uppermost, or the knaves will. If the honest men go dawdlingly about their business, the others will not fail to spy their advantage, and make use of it.

But next, it was to be through the taxes; which addresses itself to the future. Wait till the corn laws are settled, and then do not forget the taxes. It was not enough that the monopolist owners of land had taxed everything that could be paid for by other people, and untaxed everything that could fall upon themselves. It was not sufficient that every turnpike-gate presented a scale of payments which cried, as all who run may read, "Rates dishonestly laid, to put money into the pockets of the law-makers, at other people's expense." Nor were the people adequately irritated by the knowledge, that on every pound of tobacco, for instance, consumed, the working-man is charged eleven times the per-centage of the dandy on the articles they consume, and, on tea, the washer-woman four or five times as much as the countess. One thing was wanting; it was that compensation should be asked to those who have starved us, by a further adjustment of these same taxes in their favour.

When the Turkish cavalry rides over a country, your Turkish corporal sends for a peasant and orders him to roast a lamb; and when the squad have eaten it, they send for the peasant again, and ask him what he means to pay them for having used their teeth. And in the Turkish military vocabulary there is understood to be a term for this kind of benevolence, implying "teeth-money."

People of England, what "teeth-money" do you intend to give to your aristocracy, for having eaten up your lamb?

WILLIAM KNIBB.

A GREAT man has suddenly gone from our midst, and has exchanged his labours on earth for his rest in heaven. The world has lost another of its heroes—one of the purest and noblest of them, too—William Knibb. The last packet from the West Indies brings intelligence of his death. Philanthropy mourns, in his departure, the loss of her most undaunted champion—religion, the extinction of one of her brightest lights. The unexpected intelligence dismays us. Without undervaluing the worth of other missionaries in the island of Jamaica, William Knibb appeared to us to be the genius and the soul of Negro freedom. The glowing earnestness of his heart lighted his way to the

happiest and most successful plans for elevating the people of his adoption to freedom, civilisation, and piety. He appeared to have been within reach of the prize which his generous heart coveted for the once down-trodden slave—and lo! death has struck him, and left the completion of his great work to others. All honour to his memory! Many have done well, but he excelled them all.

It is not our purpose here to record the incidents of Knibb's life, to pronounce a panegyric upon his course, or to present an analysis of his character. The last we may take another opportunity of doing. We pen these lines merely to give expression to our own strong emotions. We cannot see such a man—so earnest, yet withal so radiant with love—so high-minded, yet so bitterly unaligned—so superior to the blandishments of false friends, and so unflinching in the presence of the sternest foes—pass away from amongst us without a momentary outburst of feeling. He was a man to make us proud of the race—one of the few redeeming examples of glorious humanity. His large and noble heart gave dignity to everything he did, and ensured success to everything he attempted. He was the best instance we have met with of Christian love on fire. His benevolence burned; nor is it at all surprising to us that, being of such strength and heat, it should wither the selfish, or scorch the tyrant. Timid men shrunk from him—respectable men denounced him as a political religionist—wise men saw a spice of madness in his schemes. Like all truly great men, however, Knibb was careless of others' opinions of himself, save as he could turn them to the highest account; and, hence, instead of earning a reputation for prudence, he did something immensely better—he wrenched the chains from off the limbs of the slave. His value will now be appreciated, as his loss comes to be felt. But, "being dead he speaks"—and his removal hence may be, in the inscrutable arrangements of Providence, but the precursor of the fulfilment of his best hopes. His name is associated with one of the brightest pages of British history; and, even his enemies being judges, he was a good as well as a great man.

PEACE AND THE OREGON QUESTION.

We call the attention of our readers to the novel, but useful, suggestions contained in the following paragraph, sent to us by a correspondent. We need hardly say they have our most hearty concurrence. The plan, if energetically and systematically carried out, may be the means of preventing an incalculable amount of bloodshed, crime, and suffering, which must be the inevitable result of a collision between the two greatest commercial nations of the world, and may prevent the severance of those ties in the preservation of which self-interest, the cause of freedom and civilisation, are deeply interested. Even should the advent of free trade have the effect of dissolving the threatening cloud which now lowers over the Atlantic, who can say how far so simple and satisfactory a scheme may, from this one example, become the means of preserving the future peace of the civilised world! The original scheme might, however, as is suggested by the *Spectator* in an excellent article on the subject, be considerably amplified:—"Congregation, too, may address congregation; the merchants of Liverpool trading to New York, those of New York trading to Liverpool. The inhabitants of their native villages may address a band of nationalised emigrants on the Ohio. The St George's, and St Andrew's, and St Patrick's societies throughout the union may address their friends in Great Britain. A kindlier and healthier public feeling would be fanned into life by these communications. Men would prepare and strengthen themselves in private to resist the contagious war clamour of public assemblies. The peace interest thus created would keep the quarrelsome declaimers of the legislature in wholesome control by the fear of elections."

It has been suggested by some of the advocates of the cause of peace, that friendly addresses, from the merchants of this country to the merchants of America, as fellow-citizens of the world, mutually dependent the one upon the other, would, at the present juncture, be very reasonable, and would exert a decidedly salutary influence on the public mind in both nations. These addresses to be short; to deprecate so dire a calamity as war, and contrast with it the untold blessings of peace; to acknowledge the absolute dependence of commerce on peace; and to urge national arbitration for the adjustment of national disputes.

The suggestion is a good one; and we hope it will be acted on speedily. Such "compliments of the season" as these would be much in character; and would no doubt be heartily reciprocated. Friendly epistles of this kind would attract attention by their novelty; they would prove as oil thrown on the troubled waters of discord; and would strengthen the hands of both governments, in resorting to arbitration, that rational and Christian mode of terminating national disputes, which involves no compromise of principle, no compromise of national honour; but which, however it may be deemed Utopian by some, has been tried, and found successful. If we fight, we must all be losers; if we arbitrate, we shall all be gainers. The promoters of this measure want people, and especially advocates of unfettered commercial intercourse, to think about the feasibility of arbitration, and to consider that they have the power, which they assuredly have, to prevent war; for the two governments cannot take up arms unless the people will it. Hence the individual responsibility, as well as the individual duty, of both countries. Few will deny that national arbitration would be a great blessing. Reader! it is a blessing that will come all the sooner if we but give it a friendly meeting.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

It was not until Thursday evening that Lord John Russell decided what course to take. After an amount of hesitation, says the *Times* of Friday, which would have done credit to the judgment of a much more cautious statesman, Lord John Russell has at length undertaken to form a ministry. Nor has it been a mere pretence of coyness. As late as Wednesday evening, if we are rightly informed, his lordship communicated to Sir Robert Peel that a more deliberate view of the prospect before him had confirmed the reluctance he had felt from the first, and that if Sir Robert would remain in office, and carry out the opinions which had led to his resignation, Lord John Russell and his friends would render all the assistance in their power. Sir Robert, however, declined to be premier by the mercy of the Whigs, and to enter into engagements which might possibly be the subject of future dispute. On this refusal, and finding the responsibility thus thrust upon him, Lord John Russell at length plucked up the courage to give her Majesty, on Thursday evening, a positive answer.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S RESIGNATION.

On Saturday morning Lord John Russell left his mansion in Chesham place, at half-past nine o'clock, for Windsor castle, to have an audience of the Queen, and to resign the command he had accepted of his Sovereign to form an administration. The noble lord returned to town by the half-past one o'clock train from Slough, and on his arrival his lordship communicated to the majority of his supporters who would have taken office under him. By five o'clock the Earl of Auckland, Viscount Palmerston, Viscount Morpeth, the Earl of Clarendon, Sir John Cam Hobhouse, the Right Hon. Edward Ellice, the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, and Lord Monteagle, had congregated. The conference lasted nearly two hours. The Marquis of Lansdowne, Earl Grey, the Right Hon. Thornhill Baring, and the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, were absent on the occasion.

On Sunday, Lord John Russell left town for the Grove, near Watford, Herts, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Clarendon—the latter just arrived from the Continent. Lord John left, on Monday morning, for Minto house, near Hawick, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Minto, where his lady has arrived. The other proposed members of the new Whig administration have likewise left town.

The cause of this break-up of the Whig administration is said to have been the sudden resistance of Earl Grey to the appointment of Lord Palmerston as Minister of Foreign Affairs. The *Times* of Monday has the following information on the subject:—"Rumour relates that, beginning with Lord Grey, Lord John Russell offered him the Colonial office. He accepted, but had the curiosity to ask who was to have the Foreign office? The answer was, Lord Palmerston—an intimation which had the immediate effect of neutralising Lord Grey's love of place and power, patriotic and disinterested as it undoubtedly was. He most strongly objected to the appointment, and, for his own part, positively refused to serve with Lord Palmerston as Foreign Minister. . . . It was in vain that Lord John represented the utter impossibility of passing such a man by; possibility or impossibility, Lord Grey was inexorable, and took his ground on the absolute incompatibility of himself and Lord Palmerston sitting at the same council table. The whole of Friday evening is said to have been spent in fruitless endeavours to move the rock. As Lord John Russell considered that he could not dispense with either of their lordships, or at least could not afford to leave them at liberty to follow their own devices in the approaching struggle, he resolved again, for the last time, to return his commission into her Majesty's hands."

The *Times* is very severe on Lord Grey for this exhibition of "self-sufficient egotism."

Personal dislikes are proved to be more potent than zeal for the public service; and, after a delay of ten days, England is left without responsible governors, because Earl Grey will not sit at the same council-board with Lord Palmerston! Other difficulties were felt; other infirmities acknowledged. Further time was asked and given to adjust and modify these; but the greatest difficulty—a difficulty insurmountable in the construction of a cabinet—the disunion of its members, seems never to have been hinted at until the very day on which Lord John Russell was to adjudicate on their distinct and individual merits, and assign their respective functions; and, then, at last, Earl Grey exclaims, "I will not be a colleague of Lord Palmerston's."

The following (says the *Times*) was the intended allocation of places in the ministry which has been brought to so premature a close:—

First Lord of the Treasury, Lord John Russell.
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Lord Palmerston.
Secretary of State for the Home Department, Sir G. Grey.
Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Grey.
Lord Chancellor, Lord Cottenham.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Besborough.
Secretary for Ireland, Mr Labouchere.
President of the Board of Control, Sir J. C. Hobhouse.
First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Auckland.
First Commissioner of the Woods and Forests, Lord Morpeth.
President of the Board of Trade, Lord Clarendon.
Lord Privy Seal, Lord Minto.
The Vice-Presidency of the Board of Trade was tendered to Mr Cobden.

SIR R. PEEL'S RETURN TO OFFICE.

Saturday was the day appointed for Sir Robert Peel to make the formal resignation of his official insignia; and on Saturday, accordingly, he would have presented himself at Windsor for that purpose, if an early intimation of the state of affairs in his rival's camp had not changed the object of his journey. The spectacle of two retiring Premiers at once in the Castle would have been ludicrous enough, if it were not also significant of changes in the constitution of our political parties which, happy or not, are far too momentous for smiles.

Sir Robert Peel, late on Friday evening, appears to have received, by the arrival of one of the royal messengers, her Majesty's commands to attend at the Castle in the afternoon of Saturday to have an audience. The Right Hon. Baronet left his mansion in Whitehall-gardens at half-past one, to proceed by the two o'clock train from the Great Western railway-station, at Paddington, to Slough, and thence to Windsor Castle. Her Majesty was engaged nearly three hours with the Right Hon. Baronet, when Sir Robert consented again to take upon himself the responsible duties of office.

Sir R. Peel returned to town from Windsor castle at seven o'clock, and at nine o'clock there was a meeting of the late members of the Cabinet. There were present the Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, the Lord Chancellor, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Ripon, the Earl of Lincoln, Lord Stanley, Sir James Graham, the Right Hon. Henry Goulburn, the Earl of Haddington, and the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert. Lord Granville Somerset was absent. The meeting did not separate until twenty minutes after twelve o'clock. The Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Stanley, the Earl of Haddington, and the Earl of Ripon, retired shortly before twelve o'clock; but the other members remained in consultation some half an hour longer.

As to the constitution of the new Peel cabinet, nothing is at present definitely announced. It is not expected, however, that there will be more than three or four changes. It is positively asserted that the Duke of Wellington will continue as commander-in-chief, and retain his seat in the cabinet. Lists of the new Peel cabinet are already in circulation, of course based upon mere conjecture, in which Lords Brougham and Ellenborough have assigned to them the posts of Lord President and First Lord of the Admiralty, in the room of the late Lord Wharfedale, and Lord Haddington; Lord Stanley is replaced by Earl St. Germans; Mr Gladstone is made Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Great Seal is, *ex necessitate*, committed to Sir E. Sugden.

On Monday Sir Robert Peel was visited by the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Lincoln, the Right Hon. Sir James Graham, and the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, at his private residence in Whitehall-gardens.

We are informed that on the explanation, which as a matter of course will take place at the assembling of parliament, the following division for and against Sir Robert Peel, will prove in every particular correct. There were for Sir Robert Peel, in support of his views, including the right honourable baronet himself—the Earl of Aberdeen, the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, the Earl of Lincoln, and Sir James Graham. In opposition to those views—the Duke of Wellington, Lord Stanley, the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Wharfedale, the Earl of Ripon, the Earl of Haddington, the Lord Chancellor (Lord Lyndhurst), the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the Right Honourable Henry Goulburn), Lord Granville Somerset. As regards Lord Lyndhurst, we can state, on undoubted authority, that the noble and learned lord contemplated, previous to the meeting of parliament, to relinquish the high functions of Lord Chancellor, owing to the uncertainty of his health.—*Morning Chronicle*.

THE SUMMONS TO LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—Many have supposed, that Lord John Russell foresaw the precise time of his being "sent for" by the Queen: a correspondent, whom we can trust, shows that the foresight did not exist—the summons was quite unexpected. This is an extract from our correspondent's letter:—"Lord John Russell was sitting with his wife at Douglas's Hotel (in Edinburgh), reading to her, at ten o'clock in the evening, when the Queen's messenger arrived; and, on hearing that somebody wished to speak to him, he declined seeing him, unless he mentioned his name and the business he came upon. The messenger sent up his name, which was unknown to Lord John; but declined mentioning his errand. Lord John then refused to see him; and he was obliged to send up by the waiter the Queen's private letter."—*Spectator*.

Mr John Collett, the member for Athlone, sends to the *Times* a curious voucher for its accuracy. "On the day it appeared, I betted a sovereign with Mr Dennistoun, the member for Glasgow, that the statement in the *Times*, respecting the intentions of Sir Robert Peel's government on the corn laws, was 'substantially correct.' This sovereign he yesterday handed over to me, with an acknowledgment that I had clearly won it."

CANNING'S ministry was twenty days in completing—Wellington's, twenty-four days—Grey's, six days.

A DEAR KISS.—On Tuesday last, Henry Bishop, a railway labourer, was fined £1 and costs, by the county magistrates, sitting in Watling street, for an assault on Mary Pritchard, at Sturay, arising out of his having attempted to kiss her. In default of payment he was committed to St Augustine's for a month.—*Kentish Observer*.

Foreign Intelligence.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The ship *Sea* has brought the important message of Mr President Polk to the Congress of the United States, delivered on the 2nd inst. The message is lengthy, as usual, occupying some nine columns of the American papers; and we regret to say, that the new chief magistrate of the republic has thought fit to repeat his declarations regarding American rights to Oregon. After going into a long account of what Mr Polk is pleased to style, a faithful relation of negotiations and treaties in times past, he then states, that when he came into office he found that propositions, made by the previous government of America, had been rejected by Great Britain, and that "he then entertained a conviction, that the British pretensions to the title could not be maintained to any portions of the Oregon territory, upon any principle recognised by nations."

It had been thrice offered by previous governments to settle the question with Great Britain on the parallel of forty-nine degrees of north latitude, and in two of these offers the free navigation of the Columbia river had also been offered. This cession of the Columbia river Mr Polk pretends most indignantly to refuse. He, however, finds it necessary to speak of how America is to proceed in the matter of giving notice according to the stipulation of the convention of 1827. Mr Polk says:—

Under that convention a year's notice is required to be given by either party to the other before the joint occupancy shall terminate, and before either can rightfully assert or exercise exclusive jurisdiction over any portion of the territory. This notice it would, in my judgment, be proper to give; and I recommend that provision be made by law for giving it accordingly, and terminating, in this manner, the convention of the 6th of August, 1827.

It will become proper for Congress to determine what legislation they can, in the meantime, adopt without violating this convention.

He then submits it to Congress to determine whether, at their present session, and until after the expiration of the year's notice, any other measure may be adopted consistently with the convention of 1827, for the security of American rights, and the government and protection of American citizens in Oregon. He next emphatically declares that—

Oregon is a part of the North American continent to which, it is confidently affirmed, the title of the United States is the best now in existence. For the grounds on which that title rests I refer you to the correspondence of the late and present secretary of state with the British plenipotentiary during the negotiation. The British proposition of compromise, which would make the Columbia the line south of forty-nine degrees, with a trifling addition of detached territory to the United States north of that river, and would leave on the British side two-thirds of the whole Oregon territory, including the free navigation of the Columbia and all the valuable harbours on the Pacific, can never for a moment be entertained by the United States without an abandonment of their just and clear territorial rights, their own self-respect, and the national honour.

Mr Polk is pleased to deliver France a lecture on the doctrine of foreign interference, on which subject he is anything but complimentary to our French neighbours.

With regard to Mexico and Texas, there is, as may be expected, a great deal said. He would lead folks to believe that all is harmony and peace, and that the annexation is to go on and prosper. Congress is asked to make the necessary provisions for carrying out the measure, by giving Texas its agreed amount of representatives.

The President recommends that provision be made for a separation of the monies of the government from banking institutions, and that a constitutional treasury be created for the safe-keeping of the public money. The state banks are denounced by the President.

The tariff of 1842 is alluded to in the message. A revision and modification of the present tariff is recommended, and an abolition of the *minimum* principle, or assumed and arbitrary value of specific duties, and the substitution in their place of *ad valorem* duties. A system of *ad valorem* revenue duties, with proper discriminations, will, it is stated, afford ample and incidental advantages to the manufacturers. It is the opinion of the executive, "that such a system, strictly within the revenue standard, will place the manufacturing interests of America on a stable footing, and secure their permanent advantage; while it will, as nearly as may be practicable, extend to all the great interests of the country the incidental protection which can be afforded by its revenue laws."

These are the principal points discussed in these lengthy documents. The remainder is for the most part devoted to matters of but little interest to English readers.

INDIA.

An overland mail has arrived with intelligence from Bombay to Nov. 15th. The point of most interest is the departure of the Governor-General from Agra on the 29th of October, and his quick movements (although it was given out that he was proceeding slowly), whereby he was to arrive at Delhi on the 15th of November—that is, many days prior to the time when he was expected there. The affairs in the Punjab have not lost their interest, although no late atrocity is recorded. The situation is most extraordinary; the troops have murdered all the Prime Ministers or Wuzers, as well as all the Kings that do not act as they please. The boy-King Dhuleep is represented as being no great favourite with them. His mother, who is said to be at once a

"Messalina" and a "Faustina," has contrived to keep the soldiers at bay since the death of her brother, Jowahir Singh, although she has had no Prime Minister, for Gholab Singh, whom the soldiers wished to promote for his wealth to that most dangerous post, and then to plunder and to butcher him, as they did his brothers and his nephew, has contrived to gain his mountain fortress of Jamoo, where he has formally refused their invitation. The turbulent and licentious soldiers govern as they choose, and no one can resist them. It would not surprise us, says the *Times*, to hear of the flight of the Queen-mother and of her son to the British camp for protection. In the meantime there have been, as it is confidently stated, new and stringent terms offered to the Lahore government by the Governor-general. The British army remains collected on the frontiers of the Punjab, and will speedily be ready to march on Lahore, if necessary. From Scinde we learn that all is tranquil there. Sir Charles Napier was preparing to move from Kurachee to Hyderabad on a tour, as it was said, into the province of Cutch-Bhoj; but there were not wanting speculators who imagine, if an invasion of the Punjab be required, that he will lead the vanguard.

In other parts of India tranquillity prevails, although apprehensions are general of a great scarcity of grain and of water in various districts during the next six months, in consequence of the deficiency of the late monsoon.

From Burmah the news of the dethronement of Tharawaddie has been confirmed. He had become mad, and had been guilty of the most wanton acts of cruelty; he was therefore deposed, as his brother had been previously, and a regent appointed in the person of his youngest son, Shoadoonge-mentha, under the guardianship of Mekkameng, and Kyewongyee. Mekkameng, the uncle of the regent, is said to be a man of talents, and is a member of the Asiatic Society.

From China no intelligence had reached Bombay subsequent to the 30th of September.

THE WEST INDIES.

The Royal mail steamer, *Forth*, brings advices from Jamaica to the 23rd ult. The railroad had been opened with some *éclat* by all the magnates of the land, and no doubt existed of its becoming useful and profitable, which can scarcely be expected of the other projected lines concocted by the rail-scheming mania of the day. Jamaica had been very hot and dry, but some rain had fallen to windward. Copious showers accompanied the steamer from Barbadoes to St Thomas, and the islands throughout anticipated an abundant crop. Some islands are already at work, and others preparing for the coming crop.

At Jamaica, the House of Assembly had, on the motion of Mr Geddes, unanimously passed two resolutions in favour of the importation of 5,000 Coolies from India during the ensuing year. The first cargo of immigrants from Sierra Leone have been ordered to Port Maria, to meet the great demand for increased labour on the numerous estates in St Mary.

The *Demerara Gazette* notices the arrival of 252 emigrants from Sierra Leone, per *Louisa Baillie*, and 202 Portuguese from Madeira per *Chaplin*. The editor considers the latter as good a class of emigrants as the former, and nearly as useful to the planter in the capacity of field labourers.

The subject of reform was in strong agitation in British Guiana and Trinidad, and a very powerful but temperate petition to the Queen was in course of signature from the inhabitants of the former, praying for a representative form of government. A similar petition had been signed by 1,540 inhabitants of Trinidad. The desire for a "House of Assembly" is very general.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

THE EXPEDITION AGAINST MADAGASCAR.—The expedition against Madagascar appears adjourned. Orders had been given to the maritime Prefect of Brest to have the vessels ready to sail in the beginning of January, but now the time spoken of is the end of February, a period at which the Chambers will have said what they think of the project. The following are said to have been the arrangements:—Fifteen hundred men were to have been furnished of the English, and as many by us.—*Constitutionnel*.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The Brazilian government have issued a protest against an act of the British Parliament, which passed into law on the 8th of August, 1845, whereby Brazilian vessels engaged in the slave-trade become amenable to the High Court of Admiralty of Great Britain.

The King of Bavaria has issued a decree abolishing the custom of compelling his Protestant soldiers to kneel on the passing of the host, and declaring that, on the occasion of the procession outside the church, on the day of the *Fête Dieu*, none but Catholic soldiers shall attend.

TAHITI.—The following is an extract from a letter, dated April 15, 1845:—"The editor of the French journal, published at Papeete, in the beginning of the present month, published what he calls a translation of the Tahitian code of laws, in which he introduces some that never existed, and others are so full of inaccuracies, that the whole may be considered as a forgery, got up with the intention of bringing odium on the name of the senior English missionaries who assisted in framing those laws. Immediately on the publication of the spurious translation, the resident missionaries deputed one of their brethren to wait upon the editor, either personally or by letter, to expose the said document, requesting a sight of the version from which he professes to have made his translation; no reply, however, could be obtained."

EXPECTED VISIT OF THE QUEEN TO PARIS.—It is announced from Paris that her Majesty is to pay a

visit to the King of the French in the spring. Her Majesty will take up her residence at the Grand Trianon, and already a crowd of workmen are restoring, embellishing, and preparing for her reception the palace which was once occupied by Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette. Louis Philippe thinks of nothing but *fêtes*, balls, and theatrical representations, as if he were a young king, but yesterday arrived at the throne. He directs and superintends everything. He has determined in the first place on a grand spectacle in the Salle d'Opera, at Versailles, and is taking steps for the getting up of the representation, which he wishes to be worthy of the best times, and of the magnificence of Louis XIV.

The Spanish Cortes was opened at Madrid on the 15th inst., by the Queen of Spain. The royal speech is a document of very little interest.

The *Courrier Français* alleges that Mr Pritchard refuses to accept the indemnity awarded by the English and French admirals for the occurrences at Tahiti.

An English gentleman, Sir Lawrence Jones, was killed by brigands on the 7th November, when travelling between Macri and Smyrna, with a friend. His companion, Captain Twopenny, was severely wounded.

TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT IN HANOVER.—A letter from Osnabruck, of the 9th instant, says:—"Father Mathew, of Ireland, the apostle of temperance, has found an emulator in M. Marc Christian Frederick Seling, a Lutheran minister of our town. This venerable man has just returned from a tour through the province of Hildesheim, in the fifty towns of which he had received pledges from about 20,000 persons, of both sexes and all ages, to abstain entirely from drinking spirituous liquors. During the two years and a half that M. Seling has been engaged in this good work, he has procured for the different temperance societies in Germany 82,582 members, of whom 25,141 are men, 27,770 women, and 29,741 young persons of both sexes, of from twelve to sixteen years of age."

MISS FLOWER'S MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS.—We derived much gratification from attending, a few evenings since, at Crosby Hall, a concert of sacred music, the composition of Miss Eliza Flower. The beautiful edifice was filled by a most respectable audience, who appeared to enter with much zest into the spirit of the entertainment provided for them. It is not our intention, nor, indeed, would it be pertinent, to criticise the mode in which the several vocalists acquitted themselves on this occasion, further than to remark that they sustained the reputation which the musical public has cheerfully awarded them. Our business is with the music of the fair authoress. That Miss Flower has a rich fancy, chastened by study of the most classical writers, her compositions afford, we think, abundant evidence. To us, who presume not to be skilled or learned in this department, nothing presented itself in which we could discover a fault—and nothing to kindle intense enthusiasm. Miss Flower's compositions seem to us to hold the same place in the department of music as the writings of Addison in that of literature. There is the same neatness, the same elegance, the same apparent artlessness resulting from the same elaborate polish. But, like Addison, the lady seldom or never startles by the bold originality of her genius. Her subjects, for the most part selected, no doubt, in accordance with her prevailing tone of mind, strike us as unsuitable for musical expression. For example, we can hardly imagine any natural relation between the didactic sentence, "God is a spirit, and they that worship him," &c., and any combination of harmonious sounds. "Ancient of ages! humbly bent before thee," a hymn of Dr Bowring's, was very spiritedly expressed. "I will sing to the Lord" was like a cathedral window "richly dight"—full, mellow, abounding with gorgeous but solemn harmonies, and leaving upon the mind just that genial impression which the subject required. "In the plan divine" we could make nothing of—words and music were to us alike unintelligible; but the next piece, "He sendeth sun, he sendeth shower," made ample amends by its exquisite simplicity. It was most deservedly *encored*. "In peace at once will I" reminded us of some choice madrigals of Elizabeth's time; and Miss Martineau's lines beginning "Beneath this starry arch," also *encored*, were expressed with peculiar liveliness and grace. We cannot further particularise; but our readers will gather, from what we have already said, that our judgment of Miss Flower's compositions is, on the whole, decidedly in her favour.

THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS AND THE MONEY MARKET.—Consols advanced nearly 1 per cent. on Monday, on the announced return of Sir Robert Peel to the administration of the country. The speculators have all along been inclined to regard his return to power as certain, but the event occurring so speedily was a circumstance a little beyond their expectation.—*Times*.

IRELAND.

PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.—In Ireland the Repeal journals are reckoning up a brigade of sixty Repealers ready to uphold the new minister, should "he pay Ireland in kind," and equally ready to overthrow him, should he decline to take them at their price. Says the *Cork Examiner*:—"The attendance of the Irish members at the Conciliation hall for one month would baffle the ambition of Lord John Russell, and reduce him at once from the highest position under the Crown to the simple leadership of the opposition." The same authority states that Lord John Russell need not attempt to supply places in his ministry with Mr Pigott, Mr Sheil, or Mr Wyse, as none of the constituencies will again return them to parliament. The registry for the city of Dublin (says the *Times*) closed on Thursday, after being open for some twenty or thirty days. Victory has, as usual of late years, attended the efforts of the Repealers, and a majority of 403 has completely swamped every hope of the present members being again returned as the representatives of the Irish metropolis in the imperial parliament. Great exertions, it is said, will be made to oust Sir W. Somerville from the representation of Drogheda, and to replace the hon. baronet by a staunch Repealer. In Louth it is understood that the whole force of the Burgh Quay Directory will be brought to bear against the return of Mr R. M. Bellew, a member of an ancient Roman Catholic family, and a strenuous opponent to repeal. Mr Reddington, the clever member for Dundalk, being on the proscribed list, will most probably have to make room for some pliant tool of the O'Connellite faction. The hon. gentleman is, like Mr Bellew, a Roman Catholic and an anti-repealer.

THE REPEAL RENT, from 1841 to 1845, has amounted to £118,474. Tribute collected on some Sunday in November each year, about £20,000 per annum, or £100,000 more.

DISTURBANCES IN LOUTH AND ARMAGH.—The Newry papers state that the "Molly Maguire" system of outrage is extending in the counties of Louth and Armagh.

STATE OF TIPPERARY.—ROBBERY AND ATTACK IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.—The following account of a robbery of Bianconi's car, in broad daylight, illustrates more clearly than would the most vivid description the disorganised state of things in that county and other disturbed districts:—"The branch car to Tipperary, which takes up the passengers at Michels-town from that on which they travel from Cork, had changed horses at Galbally at half-past two o'clock, and, when two miles from the stage, and within six of Tipperary, seven armed men jumped over a wall and ordered the driver to stop, which, not being instantly complied with, one of them presented a pistol at his head, and the man was forced to yield to them. There were on the car six passengers and the driver—namely, Mr Benjamin Deeble, of this city, and his shepherd, who were going to the fair of Tipperary to buy sheep; John Short, William Shaughnessy, and John Brien, of this city, victuallers; and Mr Jeremiah Mul-lane, of Buttevant, victualler. Six of the attacking party had their faces covered with crape, with holes for their eyes, and one man, when he saw the passengers observing him closely, stooped down and rubbed mud to his face, so as to conceal his features from them. They presented a pistol at each of the passengers in succession; and such of them as refused to deliver up their money, had it forcibly taken from them. They next made the driver come down, when they searched the boot closely, saying they expected to find a quantity of silver there going to the banks. In this, however, they were disappointed; and, finding no more money, they walked back along the road in the direction they came, in the most unconcerned manner. The car and passengers then proceeded to Tipperary; and information having been at once given to the police, a vigilant search was made, and nine persons were arrested and lodged in Tipperary Bridewell. Next day, Short at once distinctly identified one of the party as the person who put his hand in his pocket and took out the purse. Most of the others corresponded in dress, stature, and appearance, with the descriptions given, but their faces were so closely covered, that further identification was then impossible. There is, however, reason to believe that the whole gang will be amenable to justice."—*Cork Reporter*.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—On Thursday forenoon the following accident occurred in the timber-yard of Mr Urquhart, No. 336, Oxford street. It appears that two men, named Moses Goddard and Henry Barnes, were at work in the above yard in moving some timber which had been piled up, when the top piece fell down, striking both men on the legs, and crushing them between it and the ground. Their cries were dreadful, and assistance being immediately rendered, a chain was fastened round the middle of the log, which was hauled up, but had scarcely been raised sufficiently high for the sufferers to be drawn out, before the chain slipped, and the timber again fell on them. At length, but not until half an hour had elapsed, they were extricated and conveyed to Middlesex hospital, where the lower extremities of Goddard were found to be completely crushed, and the thighs of Barnes broken. It is imagined that amputation in both cases must be resorted to.—*Globe*.

RAILROADS are said to be very democratic things, and, in exemplification, we see advertised instructions in the art of leveling and plotting.—*Examiner*.

RAILWAY NOTABILIA.

On Monday, the Sheffield and Manchester railway was opened throughout.

Several railway companies, among which may be mentioned the Manchester, Rugby, and Derby, the Great Leeds and London Direct, and the Royal North of Spain, were dissolved last week, and many more are amalgamating.

No less than three societies have been formed for the protection of parties who may have applied for shares in railway companies, and afterwards declined paying the deposits on the allotments. Should any of the members be proceeded against to recover the deposits, as is now being threatened in all directions, the societies are to bear the expense of defending the action.

COERCION OF HOLDERS OF RAILWAY ALLOTMENTS.—The Great Welsh Central, which finds a difficulty in getting in its deposits, has sent a circular to the applicants for shares, not simply telling them that they are liable, but calling on them to pay a portion of their deposits on a certain fixed day, or to give the name of a solicitor who will appear for them in Chancery.

EXPLOSION OF THE BUBBLE.—DESTRUCTION OF ITS VICTIMS.—There is reason to believe that the gamblers in railways are suffering heavy penalties for their late imprudent conduct. A correspondent writes thus to a local paper:—"Trade here is in an awfully stagnated state; and we are expecting such a crash as has seldom or never been known in L—. You will, before this, have heard of H—'s suicide. The family have wisely kept all as secret as possible; but speculation has left his widow and child dependent on his friends for everything. His widow will be confined of her second child in the ensuing month. A— has stopped payment: he has lost in speculation £12,000. He is able to offer 6s. 8d. in the pound—which will be accepted. F— poisoned himself this morning, solely from the consequences of injudicious share-jobbing. He leaves a large family with sorry prospects. Twenty years of unsullied reputation have been blasted by six months of folly. P. and Co. have shut up; and they told me themselves that they have not one penny left. Six months ago H— came into the house with a capital of £5,000, and it is all gone. We have many more minor cases of suffering; and, perhaps, no family in this district can say that, individually and relatively, they are unscathed by this devastating mania."—*Gateshead Observer*.—[On Saturday last, Mr Wakley held an inquest on the body of Mr George Graham, aged forty-nine, late of the firm of Messrs Graham and Adams, warehousemen, 11, Cheapside. The deceased speculated extravagantly in railway speculations, and was on the point of forming a matrimonial alliance with a highly accomplished young lady, when he committed a determined act of self-destruction. One of the witnesses said, that it was difficult to ascertain the precise amount of his losses, which was very great. In one transaction alone, he lost £2,000. Although deceased was not what he would call a wealthy man, yet their trade was of a most promising character. Since he lost so heavily by railway speculations he became an altered man, and was exceedingly dejected in spirits. The jury returned a verdict of "Temporary insanity." A solicitor who was present said, that he had to attend that day the meetings of the creditors of two extensive firms, who, from losses in railway speculations, were compelled to wind up their affairs and stop payment.]

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY TRIAL.—As we foresaw, the engine driver, Wheatley, charged with manslaughter, for having caused the death of Mr Boteler by negligence, has been acquitted against the Judge's charge. This proves the necessity of adjusting the law to the new offences arising from carelessness on railroads, and of exacting from the companies, as well as from their servants, precautions for the public safety.—*Examiner*.

MR SPENCER IN AMERICA.—Our readers are already aware that Mr Spencer, perpetual curate of Hinton Charterhouse, is on a visit to the United States. He has been lecturing at New York, by invitation, on the subject of the corn laws and the temperance cause, and has been listened to by many of the leading merchants of the City. Public buildings, amongst which was the chapel of the University, have been thrown open for the delivery of his lectures. We are glad that this country has so able a messenger of peace to our transatlantic brethren. In mentioning the meetings which he has attended in connexion with the temperance cause, Mr Spencer says:—"The good order and decorum observed on these occasions are such as might be expected from a people so prosperous, so well educated, and so religious. There are scarcely any poor persons to be seen, and still fewer of the disorderly class which strong drink creates in some parts of the old world."

THE NEWINGTON MURDER.—Samuel Quennell was tried on Thursday, for the murder of Daniel Fitzgerald, at Newington, three weeks ago. The case was fully proved against the prisoner by the same witnesses whose evidence was described when given at the police office. The defence was insanity. The prisoner's brother asserted that there was insanity in the family; both the witness and his wife stated that they had observed a change in the prisoner's conduct, three weeks before the murder; he was occasionally morose and dejected, without any apparent cause. The jury found him guilty; and the prisoner heard sentence of death passed with the greatest composure.

TWO MEN BURIED ALIVE.

An accident of extraordinary interest occurred at Forfar on Wednesday week, William Brown, a mason, and M'Leish his labourer, were engaged in repairing a well sixty feet deep, when the upper part fell in, burying them alive. This was known to be the case from the cries of the men for help. Instantly every exertion which humanity and skill could suggest was employed to relieve them; but the greatest care was requisite lest the operations should weaken the lower part of the well and cause it to fall in. Throughout these operations a conversation was kept up with M'Leish, who was uppermost; and who displayed not only self-possession, but magnanimity of mind—directing the labourers not to begin by digging himself out, lest the rubbish should fall and suffocate Brown, but to try to reach him first. He endeavoured also to encourage and keep alive hope in the mind of his fellow-sufferer; and when on the following day M'Leish began to droop, Brown encouraged him in turn. A deep trench was commenced, beginning about one hundred feet from the well; the labourers worked night and day; but on Thursday night they came to a stand, from an apprehension that the adjoining house was undermined and might fall upon them. We take the subsequent proceedings from the last *Dundee Advertiser*, with some abridgment. Expresses were sent to Glamis and to Dundee for the assistance of engineers: and Mr Leslie, of the latter town, hastened to the spot. "He instantly commenced operations, by effectually propping the house, and by sinking a pit about five or six feet from the well, for the purpose of getting as far down as the lowermost man; it being quite impossible to interfere with the well from the top. During the intervening time, a communication with the men was effected. Gas pipes were placed so as to admit of fluids being conveyed to them—wine, porter, soup, and tea, were thus occasionally supplied to them; which greatly assisted to keep up their desponding spirits in a situation so horrible and so hopeless. The sinking of the new well was carried on with great diligence until Friday morning, when the workmen were lower down than Brown. Having procured some boring instruments from Arbroath, and some boiler-plate boxes from Dundee, and having formed a tunnel from the new bore to the old well, a brother of Brown's, who had come from Dundee, boldly dashed down, and about four o'clock p.m., extricated and brought him out." Proper restoratives were immediately applied, and Brown continues to do well. Undivided attention was then paid to the case of M'Leish, and every effort made to release him; but, unfortunately, without effect; on Monday (the sixth day) he was discovered to be dead. He had got down a small bell, and rung occasionally for refreshment. At eight o'clock on Monday morning he took some milk; but he was not heard to speak or to make any movement afterwards. "The bell had ceased to be heard, and it was too truly inferred that the power to ring it had also ceased. By eleven o'clock it was almost certain that he was dead. At one o'clock the Sheriff examined two medical men who had gone down; and who had been able to examine his legs; and they declared that poor M'Leish was dead, and that it was their belief that he had been so for three hours at least." Nothing could exceed the coolness and precision of Mr Leslie throughout the whole affair, and to his able and ingenious management is to be attributed the life of Brown, the survivor.

MR VINCENT'S TOUR IN SCOTLAND.

LANARK.—Mr Vincent has delivered two addresses in this town, in the parish church, which were most enthusiastically received by highly respectable meetings. Mr Aitken, of Edinburgh, occupied the chair. The courtesy with which the churches and chapels are everywhere granted to Mr Vincent is a cheering sign of the times, and the numbers who attend his lectures must convince every sensible person of the growing popularity of his principles. Mr Vincent, when lecturing on temperance, invariably treats the question as an agent in furthering the progress of all great principles, including the great cause of liberty. The Scottish Temperance League are performing a noble work in Scotland, and it will soon become the most popular and powerful band of moral and intellectual reformers that this country has yet produced.

BANNOCKBURN.—On Monday and Tuesday, the 15th and 16th, Mr Henry Vincent addressed two meetings of the inhabitants of this district in the Secession church. The meetings were attended by many of the respectable inhabitants, including the ministers of the Secession and Free churches. Mr William Jenkins occupied the chair. Mr Vincent was most cordially received, and his lectures appeared to produce a deep impression upon his audience. At the close, a vote of thanks was given with hearty applause.

STIRLING.—On Wednesday night last, Mr Henry Vincent addressed a large and respectable meeting in the North Secession church of this town. The Baptist minister occupied the chair, and the meeting was opened with prayer by the pastor of the Independent church. Mr Vincent was received with great applause, and his address, which embraced the general question of education, as an element in the cause of human progress, was most heartily responded to. Mr Vincent addresses the inhabitants of Stirling next Wednesday on civil and religious liberty.

FALKIRK.—Mr Henry Vincent addressed two meetings in this town, in the Relief church, on

Thursday and Friday nights last. The meetings were not so numerous as those in the other towns of Scotland, Falkirk being proverbial for its dullness. About 400 attended, amongst whom were many of the more respectable classes. Mr Vincent's lectures created quite an excitement, and, could he have remained two more nights, bumpers might have been realised. The vote of thanks was moved by the Rev. Mr Rutherford, and passed with loud and repeated applause.

EDINBURGH.—The friends of temperance, education, and social progress, in this city, are making great preparations for a grand *soirée* in the Music hall, one of the most splendid buildings in the country for public assemblies. It is to be held on the 1st of January. Among those announced to attend are Mr William Reid and Mr J. Townend, of Edinburgh; Mr J. Longmuir, A.M., of the Free Church, Aberdeen, ministers; Henry Vincent, Esq., London; A. H. M'Lean, Esq., Glasgow; and other known friends of the cause. An instrumental band and the large organ will be put in requisition to add diversity to the evening's arrangements. Above fourteen hundred people are expected to be present at the *soirée*.

Literature.

Sketches of Residence and Travels in Brazil. By the Rev. D. P. KIDDER, A.M. In two volumes. London: Wiley and Putnam. 1845.

MANY things combine to render Brazil an object of curiosity and interest. Its fertile soil, its glittering minerals, its early history, its more recent political revolutions, render it alike distinguished. It is the complaint, however, of this author, that, "respecting no other country of equal extent and importance are our means of information so limited;" and he has pointed out, in a work of so much authority as "M'Culloch's Commercial Dictionary," many capital errors regarding it. "Among English books on that country, there are none of very recent date; nor is there any one, the writer of which personally visited more than two or three of the eighteen provinces of the Empire."

As missionary from the United States to Brazil, Mr. Kidder had peculiar facilities for estimating the moral, religious, and social relations of that large empire. In these respects the work is very valuable. One of the author's chief objects was the distribution of the Bible in Portuguese.

"At the mission-house many copies were distributed gratuitously, and on several occasions there was what might be called a rush of applicants for the sacred volume. One of these occurred soon after my arrival. It was known that a supply of books had been received, and our house was literally thronged with persons of all ages and conditions of life—from the grey-headed man to the prattling child—from the gentleman in high life to the poor slave. Most of the children and servants came as messengers bringing notes from their parents or masters. These notes were invariably couched in respectful and often in beseeching language. Several were from poor widows, who had no money to buy books for their children, but who desired Testaments for them to read at school. Another was from one of the ministers of the Imperial government, asking for a supply of an entire school out of the city. Among the gentlemen who called in person, were several principals and proprietors of colleges and many students of different grades. Versions in French, and also in English, as well as Portuguese, were sometimes desired by amateur linguists. . . . One aged priest who called in person and received, by special request, copies in Portuguese, French, and English, on retiring, said, 'The like was never before done in this country.' . . . In three days 200 copies were distributed, and our stock was exhausted, but applicants continued to come till it was estimated that four times that number had been called for."—pp. 138, 139.

It is not, however, for its religious intelligence alone that this book is interesting. There is much graphic delineation of the manners and customs of the Brazilians. The following extract illustrates two countries at one time:—

"About this period, new facilities for communication between different and distant parts of the city were opened by an omnibus company, which established regular lines of coaches between the *Praca da Constituicao* on the one side, and *S. Christovao* on the other. Nothing like such a means of public conveyance had been before known in any part of the empire. The beautiful coaches constructed for this object were each drawn by four mules, and presented an appearance quite as interesting as that of their prototypes in Broadway. This was little, however, in comparison with the actual convenience they offered to persons who desired such a means of locomotion. Within these coaches might be witnessed perfect specimens of Brazilian manners. A person accustomed to the distant and care-for-no-one airs which are generally observed in the New York stages, might be a little surprised that so much friendly attention and politeness could prevail among perfect strangers who might happen to meet each other in these vehicles. It might be equally surprising to see that no one was excluded on account of colour. Condition is the test of respectability in Brazil. No slaves can be admitted to an omnibus, except in the case of a female wet-nurse to some lady, whose child she carries. At the same time no free person who is *decently dressed*, and has money to purchase a ticket, is excluded."—p. 161.

The funeral ceremonies of Brazil have been frequently described. Their peculiarity may yet bear repetition:—

"In the case of infants and young children the occasion is considered joyous, and the procession is one of triumph. White horses, gaily caparisoned, and bearing white plumes on their heads, draw an open coach, in

which sits a priest in his most costly robes, with his head uncovered, and holding in his lap, in an open litter, the remains of the infant, adorned with tinsel, and ribbons, and roses. The torch bearers, if not dressed in white, have their coats trimmed with silver lace, and all the flambeaux are white."

In cases of infectious disorders, these said priests must have, we imagine, no very safe or agreeable office:—

"With regard to adults, the contrast is the greatest imaginable. Night is generally chosen for the procession. On the day preceding, a funeral altar is set up in the house of the deceased. The door is hung in black—the horses, the hearse, the torch-bearers, are all dressed in black. The driver of the hearse wears black epaulettes; upon his shoulders and on his head a *chapeau de bras*, with a nodding plume. The number of torch-bearers is in proportion to the number of carriages in the train, on either side of which they form a line. They are frequently mounted, and their long black torches, flaming upon the darkness, create an imposing spectacle.

"When the coffin reaches the church, it is transferred to a lofty pedestal called a mausoleum, covered with black cloth and surrounded with burning candles. Here it rests while the funeral services are performed. The body is then interred beneath some of the marble slabs by which the floor of the church is covered, or walled up in some of the catacombs that have been constructed in the outer walls of the edifice.

"The coffin used in the ceremony is not interred with the corpse, being kept by the church, or brotherhood, for the purpose of renting on such occasions. When the bodies are placed in the catacombs, quick lime is thrown upon them to hasten the process of decay; and, after the lapse of about twelve months, the cavity is opened, and the bones of the dead are taken out and cleansed. The friends of the deceased then cause the remains to be enclosed in a box, to remain at the church, or to be taken home at pleasure."—pp. 174, 175.

In one of his journeys, the author had the opportunity of gathering the following opinions of one of the priesthood, as to the state of religion in Brazil:—

"He said Catholicism was nearly abandoned here, and all the world over. I assured him that I saw abundant proofs of its existence and influence; but he seemed to consider these 'the form without the power.' I told him I did not understand what he meant by saying, that Catholicism was nearly abandoned. He proceeded to explain, that there was scarcely anything of the spirit of religion among either priests or people. He was strong in the opinion, that the laws enjoining clerical celibacy should be abolished, since the clergy were almost all, *de facto*, much worse than married, to the infinite scandal of religion—that such was their ignorance, that many of them ought to sit at the feet of their own people, to be instructed in the common doctrines of Christianity—that the spirit of infidelity had been of late rapidly spreading, and infecting the young, to the destruction of that external respect for religion, and the fear of God, which used to be hereditary. Infidel books were common, especially 'Volney's Ruins.' I asked whether things were growing better or worse. 'Worse,' he replied, 'worse, continually.' 'What means are taken to render them better?' 'None: we are waiting the interference of Providence.' I told him there were many pious persons who would gladly come to their aid, if it were certain that they would be permitted to do the work of the Lord. He thought they would be well received if they brought the truth; meaning, probably, if they were Roman Catholics. I asked him what report I should give to the religious world respecting Brazil. 'Say that we are in darkness, behind the age, and almost abandoned.' 'But that you wish for light?' 'That we wish for nothing. We are hoping in God, the Father of light.'—pp. 315, 316.

Our extracts have been made *ad aperturam libri*. They are somewhat miscellaneous; as, indeed, is the book itself. But it is light, easy, intelligent, and full of useful information.

The Round Preacher; or, Reminiscences of Methodist Circuit Life. pp. 364. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co: 1845.

"THE writer sends forth this volume, in the hope that it may show, in some measure, the dreadful evils which arise from *schism*; and may lead some of the professed followers and admirers of John Wesley, to return to his principles, and comply with his wishes, and so escape the snares of novelty, and walk in the good old paths." This is the design, and of course the means are suitable, in the writer's view, to accomplish the end. He who undertakes to make facts in order to injure a system is a fool if he do not make the right sort. Doubtless there is a considerable portion of truth in this volume; truth is generally the basis of lies, as likeness is of caricature; but there is a great deal, likewise, that we imagine to be false, if not in matter, yet in form; for to put together all that is wrong or ridiculous in the proceedings of a sect, is not to represent, but *misrepresent* it. Such writers as the present one, are not altogether useless. However malicious and mendacious they may be, they do a service which may be turned to good account, and which none other could do. They are very like informers—very useful to society, and yet very worthless in themselves. But few bodies of Christians are quite free from faults and follies, and, however humbling it may be to think it, they are seldom removed till they have been pointed out by no friendly hand. We hope our Wesleyan friends will have grace to profit by these "Reminiscences," as we believe other bodies, of which we know more, have profited by publications even more false and scurrilous.

A Metrical Version of the Hebrew Psalter; with Explanatory Notes. pp. 264. 1845.

THIS Version is "founded on the Bible translation of the Psalms, carefully compared with all the best modern

translations. The sacred text has been adhered to as closely as possible, from a conviction that as no paraphrase of the Psalms is necessary for the Christian's private devotion, so neither can it be necessary for any other act of worship. Yet, as great ignorance of the spiritual and mystical character of this sacred book unhappily prevails, it has been thought expedient, without paraphrasing the text, to adopt a work of explanation, chiefly by short notes, most of which have been selected from the best authors." The Version being very literal, it would be in vain to expect flights of poetry. The first verse of the first psalm may be taken as a specimen:—

"Blest is the man who doth not stray
In paths wherein th' ungodly meet;
Nor standeth in the sinner's way,
Nor sitteth in the scorner's seat:
But meditates, with great delight,
On God's commands, by day and night."

Each page is divided into three columns: one gives the subject, another the version, and the third the notes. The book is got up with beautiful neatness and elegance, and will be prized by many.

The Mystery of God's Dealing with the Jews. By A. C. BARCLAY, author of the "Four Dispensations." pp. 114. 1845.

THE title of some books sufficiently discloses their nature and contents, while those of others might be intended, as it has been said of speech, not for purposes of expression, but concealment. Everybody will be able to guess at the general subjects of Mr Barclay's little volume without our help. It is written with care, under a deep sense of the importance of the Jews, not only as a people, but in relation to the world, and with an earnest desire to awaken more general attention to the subject. It contains much information, and is free from the extravagance that often disfigures prophetic discussions.

Anti-Christ in Prophecy, and Anti-Christ in Fact. By JOHN PARRY. pp. 84. Hamilton, Adams, and Co. 1846.

THE substance of this discourse was delivered before the Hampshire Association of Independent Ministers and Churches. It was received with great favour, and its publication requested, by that body. The author did well in complying with the request of his brethren. As a first production, and of a young man, it is exceedingly honourable to him; and we sincerely hope that the public will appreciate the ability and industry which he has brought to his important task.

The principle which the author develops and maintains is, "that the radical cause, whose effects in future ages, the Apostle, with a characteristic strength and fulness, describes," and the more ostensible disclosure of which effects he assigns to a particular period of church affairs—namely, when that which had hitherto let should be taken out of the way; that this cause must be taken to be the *secular character necessarily given to Christianity by its alliance with the civil power*. We cannot give a view of the reasoning by which it is sought to sustain this position. Suffice it to say that it is worthy of examination from all who take an interest in the subject, and that those who may not admit its force must admire the independence with which it is conducted, and the spirit in which it is expressed.

Portrait of the Late William Knibb. Under the patronage of the Committee of the Baptist Mission. London: Dyer. 1845.

AN excellent and beautifully-finished likeness of this eminent and lamented Christian patriot. At any time this would have been an acceptable offering to the religious public; but, at the present moment, it will be esteemed as a specially valuable memento of a man who deserves, and will receive, the lasting gratitude of his race, and whose mysterious and sudden removal we are so unexpectedly called upon to deplore.

Health made Easy for the People; or, Physical Training, to make their Lives, in this World, Long and Happy. By the Inventor of the "Piano Globe," &c., &c., &c. Fifth Thousand. pp. 200. Darton and Clarke. 1845.

WITHOUT containing anything new, this little work is well adapted to promote health and comfort, so far as the statement of what is needful to them can do so. The great difficulty is to persuade men to act according to the laws of God. For one who sins through ignorance, ten sin through inclination.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *The Curative Power of Vital Magnetism*.
2. *Publications of the Religious Tract Society:—The Sabbath-day Book—Barth's Christian Missions—The Life of Julius Caesar—Sketches of Napoleon Buonaparte—The Christian Almanack—The Pocket Book Almanack—The Tract Society Almanack*.
3. *Juvenile Missionary Herald*.
4. *Herrick on Complete Salvation*.
5. *The Apostolical Christians, and Catholics of Germany*.
6. *Sermons on Consolation—The Catholic Series*.
7. *Cobbins's Child's Commentator*. Parts 23, 24.
8. *Policy of the Government and People in the Present Corn Law Crisis*.
9. *Notes on the New Reformation in Germany, &c.* By GEORGE COMBE.
10. *The Unholy Alliance; or Oppression in "High Places."*
11. *Millennial Tidings*. Nos. 1, 2.
12. *Prospects and Perils of the Free Church*. By W. SORLEY.
13. *Brief Exposition of the Sequential System of Musical Notation*. By H. C. LUNN.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

Sir Robert Peel's mahogany wheelbarrow cost £40, and is placed in his museum at Drayton Manor.

MILDNESS OF THE SEASON.—In the garden of Mr Oakden, of Rodley, may now be seen a tree, upon which are large quantities of ripe currants.

UNEXAMPLED EVENT.—The driver of a coach from Bridgewater to Abingdon tells the remarkable fact, that he recently conveyed ten ladies at a time on his coach, none of whom had a hand-box!

NEW PROVERB.—Promises, like Railway Companies, are only made to be broken.—*Punch*.

ELASTIC STATUTES.—It is proposed to have the laws printed on India rubber paper, so that they can be stretched a bit when a rich culprit is to be hauled over the coals.

Mr Wallace, the late member for Greenock, has presented 2,000 volumes of public and parliamentary documents to the Greenock Library.

D. E. B. T. are the initials of "Dun Every Body Twice." C. R. E. D. I. T. are the initials of "Call Regularly Every Day—I'll Trust."

Charles Dickens, Esq. (Box), was in Liverpool on Saturday, making arrangements connected with the *Daily News*, the paper which is to be published at the beginning of the year, and of which he is to be the principal editor.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

Sorrows are like tempest-clouds; in the distance they look black, but, when above us, scarcely grey. As sad dreams indicate coming joy, so will it be with the so often torturing dream of life when it hath passed.

A FRIEND IN NEED.—A gentleman, unaccustomed to public speaking, becoming embarrassed, whispered to his friend, "Quick, give me a word!" Upon which the other replied, "Yes, yes, what word do you want?"

There are few habits more prevalent, though there are few meaner, than that of speaking lightly of ourselves with the design of making those we address talk in our praise. Weak and vain persons are often guilty in this respect. They fall that you may lift them up. They fish for food to their pride with the bait of humility.

TURNING THE PENNY.—A "solicitor," in the *Times* of Thursday, announces the agreeable intelligence, that "a gentleman in the City has the opportunity of lending considerable sums of money, at sixty per cent., on good security." Who would adventure in the game of "scrip," after such an offer as this?

Hampers of mutton are sent regularly from Windsor to the King of Prussia, at Berlin, where it is considered the greatest delicacy at the royal table, as it well may be, seeing that Prussian mutton is scarcely eatable.

The autograph MS. of Gray's "Elegy on a Country Churchyard" was sold, a few days since, at an auction, for £100.

AMUSING ACCIDENT.—The Echo, in Jullien's Navy Quadrilles, was seized last week with a dreadful cold. When it came to his turn to answer, the only response the Echo made was a tremendous sneeze.—*Punch*.

Lady Adela Ibbetson (late Villiers) is not yet received into full forgiveness by her noble family. It is reported, however, the unfortunate differences arising from the step taken by the youthful lady and her noble parents are likely to end in a speedy reconciliation.

We hear, from Bonn, of a forthcoming publication, which excites great interest in the literary world. This is a "History of the French Revolution," by the late illustrious historian, Niebuhr; the MS. of which was found amongst his papers, and which his son is now conducting through the press.

The enlightened peasantry of the west of England are in a state of great alarm, at the report of a figure riding about the country on a white horse, and predicting that "the disease will be on the wheat next year."

Mr Spencer Hall, in a letter to the *Standard*, claims for meametric science the honour of the victory the *Times* has obtained in revealing the decision of the Privy Council on the corn law question. He says the *Times* staked its credit on the revelation of a clairvoyant.

Mr Park, the sculptor, is at present engaged on a colossal statue of Campbell, the poet, which is intended to be erected in some conspicuous situation in Glasgow.

A paragraph has been going the round of the newspapers, stating, *incorrectly*, that Gretna Green marriages will not be legal after the 1st of January next. Lord Brougham's having brought in a bill last session to render a three weeks' residence in Scotland necessary, from and after the 1st of January, 1846, but which bill has not yet passed, has originated the error.

The New York papers have made arrangements with the Magnetic Telegraph Company for the supply of the reports of the proceedings in Congress. By this means, speeches delivered in Washington will be in New York the same evening—nearly two days earlier than by the usual mode of proceeding.

DIRECTIONS FOR AFFIXING POSTAGE LABELS.—The most effectual plan is to dip the label wholly into water, to shake off the water immediately, and to press the label upon the letter with a piece of clean blotting-paper. When the gum is dull in appearance, it will require rather more time and moisture, to make it stick firmly, than when it is glossy. The purpose of wetting the label wholly, is to counteract the tendency it has to curl up from the letter when one side only is wetted, a tendency caused by the expansion of that side as it imbibes the moisture.

GENERAL TOM THUMB.—This famous little gentleman is again in London, having passed through all his continental perils in unexpected safety. The levees of this most minute and intelligent of dwarfs are held, as they formerly were, at Egyptian hall.

Lady Hester Stanhope says, that her father slept with twelve-blankets on his bed, with no nightcap, and his window open; that he used to get out of bed, put on a thin dressing-gown, with a pair of silk breeches that he had worn over night, with slippers and no stockings; and then he would sit in a part of the room which had no carpet; and take his tea with a bit of brown bread.

BIRTHS.

Dec. 16, Mrs P. M'EWEN, Marchmont street, Brunswick square, of a son.
Dec. 17, the wife of Mr JOHN GRAY, of Belmont House, Peckham, of a daughter.
Dec. 23, Mrs H. SPICER, 18, Bedford row, Islington, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Dec. 13, at George-street Chapel, Oxford, by Mr J. B. M'Crea, minister of the Independent chapel, New Windsor, Berks, JOSEPH HAYNES, Esq., of Lonsdale square, Islington, to MARY ANNE, third daughter of Stephen WESTBROOK, Esq., of Beaumont street, Oxford.

Dec. 15, by license, at Princess-street Chapel, Devonport, by Mr W. Spencer, the minister of the chapel, Mr F. W. HEATHCOTE, minister of Emma-place Chapel, Stonehouse, Plymouth, to HENRIETTA ANN, only daughter of the late A. HENRY, Esq., Lieutenant-colonel of her Majesty's 58th regiment, Stoke Devonport.

Dec. 17, at the Friends' Meeting-house, Selby, HENRY CASSON, Esq., of Hull, to Miss HANNAH RICHARDSON, of the former place.

Dec. 18, by license, at Mr James Hill's chapel, Clapham, by Mr Joseph Sortain, minister of the Countess of Huntingdon's chapel, Brighton, Mr GEORGE CLAYTON, of Herne hill, Dulwich, and of Hornchurch, Independent minister, to REBECCA MARY, eldest daughter of Edward GILES, Esq., of Clapham common.

Dec. 21, in St Paul's Independent chapel, Wigan, by the minister, Mr William Roaf, Mr JOHN PICKUP to Miss MARY KINDER, of Hindley.

DEATHS.

Dec. 13, ARTHUR MAINE, youngest son of Mr I. M. Soule, of St John's hill, Battersea, aged 13 months.

Dec. 13, at Leake, near Boston, aged 46, MARY, wife of Mr JOHN BRAND, and sister of Mr James Dinnis, Paternoster row.

Dec. 14, at Margate, in her 58th year, HARRIET, the wife of F. W. COBB, Esq.

Dec. 16, JOANNA ELLEN, the infant daughter of Mr Stephen Bromley JOHNSON, of Geyns, Wickhambrook, Suffolk, aged 5 weeks.

Dec. 20, REBECCA ANN, the beloved wife of Mr Geo. ADENRY, of Frederick place, Hampstead road, in the 55th year of her age.

Trade and Commerce.

Friday, December 19.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Ebenezer Chapel, Leyland, Lancashire.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

LEDGARD, EDWARD, Mirfield, Yorkshire, oil-crusher.

BANKRUPTS.

CHARLES, HENRY, Manchester, commission-agent, Jan. 3, 22: solicitors, Mr Fearnhead, Clifford's-inn; Mr Andrews, Manchester.

COLLINS, JOHN, Salford, common brewer, Dec. 31, Jan. 21: solicitors, Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row; Mr Cooper, Manchester.

CRAFT, GEORGE, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, baker, Dec. 29, Feb. 3: solicitor, Mr Chappell, Quality court; Mr Bentley, Hitchin.

FINDLEY, THOMAS, Manchester, plasterer, Dec. 30, Jan. 20: solicitors, Mr Fearnhead, Clifford's-inn; Messrs Andrew, Manchester.

GRAHAM, GEORGE, and Co., Cheap-side, calico-printers, Dec. 27, Feb. 13: solicitor, Mr Brace, Surrey street.

HOWE, JOHN, West Bromwich, linendraper, Dec. 31, Jan. 24: solicitors, Mr Lloyd, Milk street; Mr Bartlett, Birmingham.

JESSUP, JAMES, and JOHNSON, WILLIAM, Queen's road, Holloway, builders, Dec. 30, Feb. 6: solicitor, Mr Keighley, Basinghall street.

KELSBY, JOHN, Manchester, joiner, Dec. 30, Jan. 20: solicitors, Mr Fearnhead, Clifford's-inn; Messrs Andrew, Manchester.

LEADBETTER, JOHN, Manchester, merchant, Jan. 5, 26: solicitors, Mr Abbott, Charlotte street, Bedford square; Messrs Atkinson and Saunders, Manchester.

LEWIS, JOHN, Tipton, Staffordshire, grocer, Jan. 2, 23: solicitors, Messrs Mottram and Knowles, Birmingham.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BAIN, J., Glasgow, merchant, Dec. 25, Jan. 15.

DONALDSON, A., Peebles, tailor, Dec. 25, Jan. 16.

LEARMOUTH, D., W., and J., Redding, farmers, Dec. 26, Jan. 19.

STEVENSON and Co., Lochwinnoch, power-loom-manufacturers, Dec. 2, Jan. 16.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Batt, Old Broad street, silkman; first div. of 14s. 6d. any Wednesday; Mr Pennell, Basinghall street—Lusson, Sheerness, dockyard-clerk; first div. of 16s. 6d. any Wednesday; Mr Pennell, Basinghall street—Lee, Charing cross, hosier; first div. of 53d. any Wednesday; Mr Graham, Coleman street—Crosby and Co., Hounds-ditch, hardwaremen; third div. of 14d. any Wednesday; Mr Graham, Coleman street—Curtis, Liskeard; first div. of 4s. 4d. any day after Dec. 22; Mr Herniman, Exeter—Pitt, Plymouth, grocer; first and final div. of 24d. any day after Dec. 22; Mr Herniman, Exeter—Buisson, Brabant court, Philpot lane, merchant; first div. of 1s. 5d. Dec. 20, and the three subsequent Saturdays; Mr Groom, Abchurch lane—Hodgson, Liverpool, scrivener; first div. of 1s. 9d. Dec. 22, or any subsequent Monday; Mr Turner, Liverpool—G. and J. M. Gilchrist, Liverpool, merchants; div. of 64d. Dec. 22, or any subsequent Monday; Mr Turner, Liverpool—Laurie, Fleetwood-on-Wyre, Lancashire, chemist; first div. of 3s. 4d. Dec. 22, or any subsequent Monday; Mr Turner, Liverpool—Heyes and Co., Liverpool, merchants; third div. of 23d. and 6s. 3d. on new profits, Dec. 22, or any subsequent Monday; Mr Turner, Liverpool—Danson, Liverpool, merchant; third div. of 3-32nds of a penny, Dec. 22, or any subsequent Monday; Mr Turner, Liverpool.

Tuesday, December 23rd.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Independent chapel, Falkenham, Suffolk.

Primitive Methodist chapel, Scotter, Lincolnshire.

Independent chapel, Witheridge, Devonshire.

BANKRUPTS.

BROWN, THOMAS, Connaught terrace, Edgware road, boot-maker, Dec. 30, Feb. 3: solicitor, Mr Buchanan, Basinghall street.

BROWN, WILLIAM, Atherstone, Warwickshire, ironmonger, Jan. 5, 26: solicitors, Messrs Chilton and Co., Chancery lane; and Mr Morgan, Birmingham.

CHATTERTON, JOANNA, Pendleton, Lancashire, licensed victualler, Jan. 2, 22: solicitors, Messrs Johnson, Son, and Weatherall, Temple; and Messrs Hitchcock, Buckley, and Tidswell, Manchester.

COLLISON, JOSEPH, Allerton, and Bradford, Yorkshire, worsted spinner, Jan. 8, 27: solicitors, Mr Scargill, Thread-needle street; Mr Dawson, Bradford; and Mr Harle, Leeds.

FRY, SARAH CAROLINE, Margate, stationer, Dec. 30, Feb. 3: solicitor, Mr Fisher, Verulam buildings, Gray's inn.

HERPENT, FELIX, Sherrard street, Golden square, warehouseman, Dec. 31, Feb. 4: solicitor, Mr Raw, Furnival's inn, Holborn.

HYDE, CLARENDON, Loughborough, apothecary, Jan. 5, 26: solicitors, Mr Inglesant, Loughborough; and Mr Fowkes, Birmingham.

MILLER, JAMES, Southampton, cordwainer, Jan. 6, Feb. 3: solicitors, Messrs Overton and Hughes, Old Jewry.

RAND, JOSEPH HOWARD, Westminster Bridge road, glass dealers, Jan. 3, Feb. 13: solicitor, Mr Buchanan, Basinghall street.

ROLPH, ELIZABETH and THOMAS, Shepherd's court, Upper Brook street, Grosvenor square, builders, Dec. 31, Feb. 4: solicitor, Mr Hudson, Ironmonger lane.

SIRK, JOHN, Cheltenham, baker, Jan. 15, Feb. 12: solicitors, Messrs Oliver and Co., Moorgate street.

SMITH, ESTHER, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, innkeeper, Jan. 9, Feb. 2: solicitors, Messrs Shilton and Son.

SMITH, GEORGE, Manchester, bill broker, Jan. 5 and 28: sol-

citors, Mr Fox, Finsbury circus, and Messrs Worthington, Earle, and Berry, Manchester.

WINGFIELD, WILLIAM, Rotherham, Yorkshire, common brewer, Jan. 8 and 27: solicitors, Mr Hudson, Bucklersbury; Mr Robinson, Rotherham; and Mr Bond, Leeds.

WINSTON, THOMAS, Copthall buildings, merchant, Dec. 30, Feb. 6: solicitors, Messrs Crowder and Maynard, Coleman street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ALLAN, P., Coldstream, agricultural implement maker, Jan. 2, 23.

BENDELOW, J., Leith, innkeeper, Dec. 29, Jan. 22.

MACKENZIE, J., Dingwall, coal merchant, Dec. 29, Jan. 19.

MILLER, D. P., Glasgow, theatrical ornament maker, Dec. 25, Jan. 15.

STEVENSON, J. and W., and Co., Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, power loom manufacturers, Dec. 29, Jan. 19.

DIVIDENDS.

J. and W. Campion, Whitby, Yorkshire, ship builder; Dec. 3, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Kynaston's, Leeds—F. Loraine, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, bookseller; any Saturday after Dec. 20, at Mr Baker's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—J. Howden, Wakefield, Yorkshire, ironfounder; Dec. 23, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Kynaston's, Leeds—J. and D. Sugden, Kirkburton and Huddersfield, fancy cloth manufacturers; Dec. 23, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Kynaston's, Leeds—J. Wardell, Pickering, Yorkshire, wine merchant; Dec. 23, or any subsequent Tuesday, at Mr Kynaston's, Leeds—T. Patterson and J. Codling, Sheriff hill, Durham, earthenware manufacturers; Dec. 20, or any subsequent Saturday, at Mr Wakley's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—W. H. Bates; any Thursday, at Mr Christie's, Birmingham—B. B. Wilson, Holme, Westmoreland, surgeon; Dec. 20, or any subsequent Saturday, at Mr Wakley's, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—T. C. Smith and R. Hayes, Henrietta street, Covent garden, hotel keepers; any Wednesday, at Mr Whitmore's, Basinghall street—J. P. Bradley, Great St Helen's, wine merchant; any Wednesday, at Mr Whitmore's, Basinghall street—J. Brooker, Southampton row, Bloomsbury, carver—Dec. 24, and the two subsequent Wednesdays, at Mr Turquand's, Old Jewry.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent. Consols	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2
Ditto for Account	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2
3 percent. Reduced	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2
New 3 1/2 percent	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2
Long Annuities	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Bank Stock	199 1/2	199 1/2	201	200	202	201
India Stock	20pm	19pm	18pm	18pm	21pm	21pm
Exchequer Bills	—	—	—	—	—	—
India Bonds	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian	94 1/2	Mexican	30
Brazilian	79 1/2	Peruvian	46
Buenos Ayres	41	Portuguese 5 per cents	27 1/2
Columbian	16 1/2	Ditto converted	50 1/2
Danish	86	Russian	113
Dutch 3 per cents	59	Spanish Active	28 1/2
Ditto 4 per cents	92 1/2	Ditto Passive	7
French 3 per cents	82	Ditto Deferred	16 1/2

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester	123	London & Croydon Trunk	20 1/2
Blackwall	8 1/2	London and Greenwich	—
Bristol and Exeter	78	Ditto New	—
Eastern Counties	20	Manchester and Leeds	123
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Midland Counties	142
Grand Junction	—	Ditto New Shares	25
Great North of England	206	Manchester and Birmingham	71
Great Western	148	Midland and Derby	—
Ditto Half	80	Ditto New	—
Ditto Fifths	32 1/2	South Eastern and Dover	35 1/2
London and Birmingham	212	South Western	73
London & Birm. 4 Shares	—	Ditto New	6 1/2
London and Brighton	61	York and North Midland	—

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Dec. 22.

The supply of English wheat from Essex, Kent, and Suffolk, was again very small this morning, and the trade opening with more confidence, it realised an advance of 1s. to 2s. per qr. upon the prices of this day se'nnight. Free foreign was held firmly at late prices; but transactions were limited. Bonded and floating cargoes were rather more inquired for, and several sales were effected at prices which have not been obtainable of late. Fine malting barley sells freely, but inferior still hangs on hand. Beans and peas support our quotations. The arrivals of oats are good, and meet a moderate sale at about 6d. to 1s. below the rates of last Monday.

Wheat, Red	48 to 58	Malt, Ordinary	48 to 50
White	50 to 60	Pale	52 to 60
Barley	35 to 40	Rye	33 to 35
Flour, per sack	55 to 60	Peas, Hog	35 to 37
Malting	32 to 33	Maple	36 to 40
		Boilers	41 to 46
		Beans, Ticks	34 to 39

Beans, Pigeon	44 to 48	Wheat	14s. 0d.
Harrow	34 to 41	Barley	5 0
Oats, Feed	21 to 22	Oats	3 0
Poland	22 to 25	Rye	6 6
Potato	24 to 26	Beans	1 0
		Peas	1 0

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR DEC. 19.

Wheat	58s. 2d.	Wheat	58s. 9d.
Barley	33 2	Barley	31 10
Oats	25 0	Oats	25 2
Rye	35 4	Rye	36 4
Beans	41 8	Beans	42 10
Peas	45 10	Peas	44 9

SEEDS, MONDAY, Dec. 22.

Hitherto very little has been done in either white or red cloverseed, speculators having deemed the prices asked too high, and the consumptive demand having not yet begun. Canaryseed was again rather cheaper to-day. Quotations of other articles underwent no change.

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Waterside, Dec. 22.

The supply during the past week was very limited; but in consequence of the wind being favourable, the potatoes arrived in tolerable condition, but the trade at the waterside was not so good as it usually is when the supply is short, as many of the large retailers are getting potatoes from the various railway stations and steam-boat wharves; besides which the consumption always decreases as the prices advance. The prices ranged as follows:—York reds, from 70s. to 120s.; do. regents, from 70s. to 140s.; Scotch reds, from 80s. to 90.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, Dec. 22.

During the past week there was little or no change to be noticed in the Irish butter market; the sale was moderate, and prices were nominally without alteration; the best Dutch advanced to 23 1/2s., and the weather having now changed to frost and snow, we look for an improved demand. We have experienced another dull week in the bacon market; and, notwithstanding the high advices respecting pigs from Ireland, prices again declined 1s. to 2s. per cwt. Lard sells very slowly. Fine hams in good demand.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Dec. 22.

Until the turn of the year, it is not expected that we shall have much doing in hops. Prices keep tolerably steady.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Dec. 22.

The best qualities of beasts were in fair request at Friday's depressed currencies, the highest figures ranging from 4s. 2d. to 4s. 4d. per 8lbs.; but all other breeds were a dull inquiry, and the quotations were with difficulty supported. At the close of the market a total clearance was not effected. The mutton trade may be considered steady, at prices about equal to those obtained on this day se'nnight. The first arrival of lambs, 10 in number, took place from the Isle of Wight. Their quality was good, and fair average prices were obtained for them. Prime small calves, which were scarce, moved off steadily at full prices. Generally speaking, the pork trade was firm at fully previous rates.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	3s. 0d. to 4s. 4d.	Veal	4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.
Mutton	3 4 to 5 0	Pork	3 10 to 5 2

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Dec. 1.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.			
Inferior Beef	3s. 2d. to 3s. 4d.	Inf. Mutton	3s. 8d. to 4s. 0d.
Middling do	3 6 to 3 8	Mid. ditto	4 2 to 4 4
Prime large	3 8 to 3 10	Prime ditto	4 6 to 4 8
Prime small	3 10 to 4 0	Veal	3 10 to 4 0
Large Pork	4 0 to 4 8	Small Pork	4 10 to 5 4

WOOL.

The market for wool continues very quiet, and prices are not so well supported.

COTTON.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 19.—There has been a fair moderate demand from the trade this week; and though the market has been abundantly supplied, prices for the most part have remained tolerably steady, without alteration from Friday last.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Dec. 20.—At per load of 36 trusses.	
Old Meadow	70 to 95
New ditto	70 to 95
Useful Old ditto	28 to 30
Fine Upland ditto	30 to 32

COAL EXCHANGE, Dec. 19.

Stewart's, 17s. 3d.; Hetton's, 17s. 6d.; Braddyl's Hetton's, 17s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 193.

Advertisements.

(PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.)

"THE ENGLAND" LIFE and INVALID HAZARD ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Capital, £1,000,000 in 20,000 Shares of £50 each;

Deposit, £1 5s. per Share.

This Company is provisionally registered under an Act of Parliament of the 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 110, which provides "for opening Subscription Lists," to allot Shares and receive Deposits, at a rate of not exceeding Ten Shillings for every £100 amount of capital. Five Shillings per Share, in accordance with the stipulation, is to be paid on allotment, and the remaining One Pound on complete Registration, and execution of the Deed of Settlement, when the Company, under the Act, will become a corporate body.

It is not anticipated that more than Five Pounds per Share will be required to be paid up.

Most eligible premises have been secured by the promoters of the Company, in the best part of Fleet street, nearly opposite the Banking-house of Messrs. Hoare, where, by a trifling outlay, the Company will be able, without loss of time, to commence business.

Life Assurance Societies have resulted in such numerous and important advantages to the public, that experience has placed these establishments amongst the most valuable of modern institutions, and a reference to the subjoined Comparative Table at once will establish the fact of their rapid and increasing prosperity and utility. The table may be extended so as to show similar results in every well-conducted company of the kind.

Profit per Cent.	Present Price per Share.	Amount per Share paid up.	Amount of Shares.	Established.	Office.
£240 0 0	£17 0 0	£5 0 0	£50	1808	Atlas Fire and Life
0 0 0	0 15 0	0 0 0	1000	1823	Economic, Life
0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	1000	1821	Guardian, Fire and Life
0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	1000	1820	Imperial, Fire and Life
0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	1000	1823	Law, Life
0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	1000	1823	Legal and General
0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	1000	1806	Rock, Life
0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	1000	1810	Sun, Life
0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	1000	1834	Universal, Life
0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	1000	1820	Royal Exchange, Fire, Marine, and Life

The plan upon which this Company is based, has been adopted, after the most minute and careful investigation of the operations of those above-named, and the promoters contemplate that they will be enabled to secure advantages through this Company which no other has yet offered. One of its immediate objects will be to effect assurances on lives deviating in various degrees from a state of full health to a precarious and even dangerous condition.

Most of the Life Assurance Companies refuse to take risks on persons unless in full health. Hence many are shut out from the ability to prepare for the support or assistance of dependants. Yet Fire-offices will insure against damage by fire, and Underwriters will insure against losses from the dangers of the seas, under any risk, such insurance being made at premiums proportionate to the risk.

This Company will adopt the same principles, by assuring such risks at fair remunerating premiums, for which purpose Medical Superintendents of first-rate talent are to be appointed in the principal towns in the United Kingdom and in the Colonies, to aid the Company with their valuable advice and assistance in each individual case; and it is intended that such Medical Superintendents shall be proprietors of not less than Five Shares of the capital stock of the Company.

The Company will have separate tables for effecting assurances on lives in full health: for hazardous, double, treble, and quadruple hazardous; and also for effecting assurances, for certain periods, on lives which may be considered almost hopeless.

In numerous cases, even under the last-named position, the effecting such assurance will be a great object to the parties. Supposing, for instance, the person whose life is proposed to be assured, should be entitled to an estate, should he attain a certain age, shortly to arrive, or to an annuity or the like, should he live to a certain day, it would be highly important to his friends to pay a liberal premium to assure his surviving till the arrival of that period. There are innumerable cases ineligible to be assured by other offices where the risk is little more than imaginary, and such persons would gladly pay an increased premium. These profitable risks, therefore, will form the peculiar objects of this Company. Persons engaged in dangerous undertakings, engineers, and persons undertaking long voyages, also, will be assured by this institution.

The general benefit of Life Assurance is, that it enables every one to provide for those whom the ties of affection or duty have rendered dependent. To those holding public offices, medical men, to men in the professions, the Church, the Law, the Army, the Navy, to Tenants for Life, to persons engaged in mercantile transactions and in trade generally, and, in fact, to all whose incomes depend upon their own lives or personal exertions, or upon the lives of others, it holds out peculiar advantages, inasmuch as it enables them to secure a future provision for their wives and families, without materially retrenching those comforts and conveniences which habitual station in life has rendered necessary. It enables persons to make marriage settlements, to borrow money where personal security would be insufficient, to provide renewals of fines or leases at a small expense, to obtain security for debts, and to secure the return of advances to children, in the event of premature death. In short, it affords the means of indemnifying every one from the money loss to which he may be subjected by the death of another.

The general business of the Company, in addition to the assurance on lives, will comprise the granting of immediate, deferred, and contingent annuities, the purchase of life interests and reversionary property, the advance of money upon freehold, leasehold, and copyhold, and upon other approved securities; and, also, upon the deposit of Railway Shares, Scrip, and upon Railway Contracts.

The tables of premiums have been calculated with the greatest care for this Company, from the transactions and events of seventeen of the oldest Life Assurance Offices, and carefully arranged by a committee of eminent actuaries, showing the law of mortality existing among upwards of eighty thousand assured lives, extending over a series of years.

Interest, at the rate of 45 per cent. per annum, will accrue to the shareholders upon the paid-up capital, from the time of the execution of the deed of settlement, besides a bonus of the profits every year. The assurers paying the prescribed premium for profits, also, after being assured for a certain period, are to participate in the benefit of such bonuses.

One half of the shares will be allotted to gentlemen of the medical and legal professions, and to the clergy throughout the kingdom, who will, more or less, be interested in the prosperity of the Company.

A Committee of respectable and influential individuals is being formed. In the meantime, applications for shares may be made, in the subjoined form, to the Solicitors of the Company.

Messrs GARRATT and Co., Queen-street Chambers,
Queen street, Cheapside, London.
A. R. BUNN, Secretary, pro tem.

FORM OF APPLICATION.

To the Directors of "The England" Life and Invalid Hazard Assurance Company.

Gentlemen,—I request you will allot me shares of £50 each, or any less number, in this Company; and I undertake to pay the deposit of £1 5s. per share thereon; namely, 5s. on the allotment, and the remaining £1 on exchanging the allotment letter for scrip, and executing the deed of the Company.

Dated this day of 184

Name (in full)

Residence

Trade or profession

Place of business (if any)

Reference

MEDICAL REFEREES AND AGENTS.—"THE ENGLAND" LIFE AND INVALID HAZARD ASSURANCE COMPANY. (Registered Provisionally.)

The Directors of this Company are desirous of appointing one or more Gentlemen (Physicians, Surgeons, or General Practitioners,) as Medical Referees, in each of the principal Towns in Great Britain and Ireland, and also in Foreign Countries, to whom Applicants for Assurances residing in their districts may refer.

It will be the duty of the Gentlemen appointed to ascertain and report to the Company the state of the health of such Applicants, and to visit the assured in certain cases of illness.

The Directors will appoint Agents, as above, to transact their country and foreign business, who, as well as the Medical Referees, will be required to hold not less than Five Shares in the capital stock of the Company.

A Scale of Fees and Allowances to Medical Referees and Agents will be forwarded previously to the Company commencing business.

Gentlemen desirous of being appointed are requested to make immediate application to the Secretary (pro tem.), A. R. Bunn, Esq., at the temporary Office of the Company, Queen-street Chambers, Cheapside, London.

WRITING INK.

WHITAKER'S FRENCH JET WRITING INK.—This splendid freely-flowing Ink is adapted for either steel or quill pens, and will be found the most desirable for Records and Office use, as TIME and CLIMATE will never efface its brilliancy. Sold by the Proprietor, 69, Hatton-garden, London, and all respectable booksellers, stationers, and druggists.

BRANDY AND CAPSULES.—Mr BETTS

(the late firm of J. T. BETTS and Co.) Patent Brandy Distiller, 7, Smithfield Bars, feels it due to himself and the public to state, that the Manufacture of the Patent Brandy was not, nor ever has been known to any person except to himself and one of his sons. And that he was succeeded in the business of the Distillery, 7, Smithfield Bars, by his sons, J. T. BETTS, jun., and Co., on his retiring therefrom, in 1843.

Mr BETTS further states, that he is the sole Patentee, manufacturer, and vendor of the Metallic Capsules (or solid metal covering for the mouths of bottles), that no other Brandy in England, except BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY, is thereby protected; the Patent Metallic Capsule, if, therefore, applied to any other Brandy, must have been surreptitiously obtained.

Metallic Capsule Manufactory,
1, Wharf road, City road.

BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY, certified by the Faculty of England to be the purest spirit, and guaranteed by the Patent Metallic Capsules, embossed with Betts's Patent Brandy, 7, Smithfield Bars, sold at 3s. 6d., bottle included, by the most respectable dealers, lists of whom may be obtained at the Distillery, where quantities of not less than two gallons, in bulk or bottles, are supplied. Address, 7, Smithfield Bars.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE IRONS.—

The LARGEST ASSORTMENT of STOVES and FENDERS, as well as GENERAL IRONMONGERY, in the WORLD, is now on SALE at RIPPON and BURTON'S extensive warehouses, 39, Oxford street, corner of Newman street (just removed from Wells street). Bright steel fenders, to 4 feet, from 30s. each; ditto, ditto, with ornolu ornaments, from 60s.; rich bronzed scroll ditto, with steel bar, 10s. 6d.; iron fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d.; 4 feet, 6s.; ditto bronzed, and fitted with standards, 3 feet, 9s.; 4 feet, 11s.; wrought iron kitchen fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d.; 4 feet, 6s.; bright register stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, from 5 guineas; ditto, ditto, with ornolu ornaments, from £9 10s.; black dining-room register stoves, 2 feet, 20s.; 3 feet, 30s.; bed-room register stoves, 3 feet, 16s.; 3 feet, 21s. The new economical Thermiostove, with fender and radiating hearthplate, from £8 5s.; fire irons for chambers, 1s. 9d. per set; handsome ditto, with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest pattern, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. A variety of fire-arms, with ornolu and richly-cut heads, at proportionate prices. Any article in Furnishing Ironmongery 30 per cent. under any other house. The money returned for every article not approved of. Detailed Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. Established (in Wells street) 1820.

RIPPON and BURTON'S Stock of General Furnishing Ironmongery is literally the largest in the world. They regret they cannot employ any language which will convey an adequate impression of its variety and extent; they therefore invite purchasers to call and inspect it.—Rippon and Burton, 39, Oxford street (corner of Newman street). Established in Wells street 1820.

THE PIQUA PLANT.—EXTRAORDINARY ECONOMY TO TEA-DRINKERS.

The Piqua Plant is, indeed, an article which claims pre-eminence as a boon for the poor, a delicacy to the rich, a blessing to the invalid, and an advantage to the public to the highest degree—unto all and every one. In calling public attention to the Piqua Plant, the proprietor wishes it to be tested solely by its own merits, being assured an unprejudiced trial will establish its worth better than the most laboured eulogy. It is most pleasant and invigorating, and is recommended to the debilitated for its invaluable qualities, to advanced age for its strengthening properties, and to the public generally for its moderate price and intrinsic excellence.

The Test: The proof of the efficacy and healthful effect of the plant in preference to tea or coffee. Let a nervous or dyspeptic patient use two or three cups of strong tea upon retiring to rest, and the effect will be the nightmare, disturbed sleep, and other violent symptoms of indigestion, &c.—The Proof: Let the most debilitated, dyspeptic, asthmatic, consumptive, and nervous patients, use two, three, or more cups of a very strong infusion of the Piqua Plant, and in the morning they will awake refreshed with their repose. It is highly recommended by physicians to invalids and children as a most invigorating and pleasant beverage.

The following are reasons why the Piqua Plant is superior to tea, viz.:—1st. Because it is beneficial to health; 2nd. It does not injure the nerves; 3rd. Children may use it with advantage; 4th. It does not prevent sleep; 5th. A quarter of a pound will go as far as three quarters of the best gunpowder tea; 6th. It is strengthening and nutritious; 7th. It is recommended by physicians, and tea is disapproved of by them. It greatly improves the voice; it is recommended to singers and public speakers.

TESTIMONIALS.

To Mr Wm. Evans. Sir,—The beverage under the name of Piqua Plant I have drank for some time. It was first recommended to my notice as a salutary beverage by a friend who is a great dyspeptic, and I have since recommended it to several patients suffering from chronic affections of the digestive organs, heart, and lungs, with manifest advantage.

JOHN BRYANT, M.D.

20, Edgware road, July 1, 1843.

To Mr Wm. Evans. Sir,—At a social party, convened expressly for the purpose of testing the Piqua Plant in this town (Belfast), we, whose signatures are attached to this document, consider it a duty incumbent upon us to bear our most ardent testimony to its salutary, convalescent, and exhilarating qualities.—Dr Carse, Dr Read, John M'Bair, surgeon, Arcly Carse, Dr Gordon, Dr Davison, John Ellison, Methodist preacher, John Johnson, and N. P. Neile, Lake-View House, near Carsons, Ireland, agent for the Piqua Plant. I would just say, in conclusion, that your plant has exceeded my most sanguine expectations. I am fully sensible that I can obtain a great consumption for it in this locality, as the last I got (viz. 14lbs.) was sold in two days. Many are coming now it is all gone. Finally, it is the opinion of those who give it a fair trial that it is much superior to tea, on account of its medicinal, invigorating, and exhilarating qualities.

N. P. NEILE.

Lake-View House, Carsons, Ireland, April 16, 1845.

To Mr Wm. Evans. Sir,—After giving your plant a fair trial, I with pleasure offer my most favourable testimony as to its beneficial effects on the system generally. It forms an agreeable beverage, and I strongly recommend its use to persons labouring under nervous depression or derangement of the digestive organs.

J. RENNIE, M.R.C.S., &c.

To Mr Wm. Evans. Sir,—I have great pleasure, and indeed I consider it an imperative duty, in justice to you, and for the benefit of others, to bear testimony to the excellent qualities of the Piqua Plant. It has wholly removed a constant painful nervous debility with which I was affected, which produced restless nights, and, constantly, overpowering languor during the day. Since the use of the infusion, the disease has entirely disappeared. I sleep soundly for six, seven, and eight hours together, and am better in health than I have been for many years; and others to whom I have recommended it have experienced the same results. You are at liberty to use this testimonial, which I am ready to confirm in person any day you may think proper.

G. TAIHOURDIN.

Belvidere place, Borough road, July 17, 1845.

Numerous testimonials, from physicians and others of undoubted authority, may be seen at Evans's Depot.

The plant is patronised by many of the first families in the land. The economy derived from the use of the Piqua Plant, compared with Tea, is as follows:—Suppose a family using 1lb. of tea per week, worth 4s. per lb., substitutes the Piqua Plant at 3s. 6d. per lb., which requires but one-third the quantity to make the infusion of equal strength, the saving would be, per week, 2s. 10d., and the cost to the family 1s. 2d., instead of 4s., for one-third of a pound of the plant will go as far as 1lb. of tea. In quarter-pound tinfoil packages. None is genuine unless each package bears the signature of William Evans. One agent wanted in each town and village where there is none. Any respectable trade approved of. No license required.

Direct letters to Mr Evans's warehouse, 18, Stafford street, Peckham. London: Mr Johnson, Cornhill; Shead and Co., 144, Cheapside; Mr Cutter, Strand, next door to Savoy street.

Sold in Bristol by Messrs Ferris and Score, chemists, Union street; Clements, 9, Somerset buildings, Bath; Burroughs, Market place, Salisbury; Balle, 247, High street, Exeter; Gadsby, Newall's buildings, Manchester; Priestley, chemist, Lord street, Liverpool; Thornton, chemist, Boar lane, Leeds; Hill, Totten, Southampton; Brown, Salisbury street, Bradford; Luff, New inn, Hall street, Oxford; Weinsy, Hereford; Lewis, Broad street, Worcester; Mr Griffith, 35, Bell street, Edgware road; Mr Abbott, 115, St Martin's lane; Mr Trueman, oilman, Millpond, Bermondsey; Paussey's Library, Brompton; Mr Scotland, 85, Union street, Borough; Mr Holmes, 29, New row, Lower road, Deptford; Mr Robertson, oilman, Dover road; Mr Osborn, 17, Bolingbroke-row, Walworth, and 114, Blackfriars road; Mr Norton, 28, Red-lion street, Holborn; Mr Brandam, oilman, Whitechapel road; Mr Hoffman, Barossa terrace, Cambridge Heath; Mr Trilove, 22, John street, Tottenham-court road.

STILTON HOUSE, 147, HOLBORN BARS, CITY.

—One of the largest and best selected assortments of STILTON CHEESE in London is now offered for sale at STILTON HOUSE, as above. The cheese is selected with great care as it respects quality, flavour, and ripeness, and is purchased of factors in the country, and not of London agents, and is consigned direct per railway to R. CROSSLEY, thus insuring him the first selection from the dairies in the country. The prices are from 10d. to 13d. per lb.; the latter is R. C.'s highest price.

R. CROSSLEY'S celebrated new mild English BREAKFAST BACON, received from the Curing Stores in the country weekly; it is particularly mild, and of a most superior quality and flavour, being highly smoked. The price, by the side or half side, is 7d. per lb.

HIGHLY SMOKED BATH CHAPS, an excellent accompaniment for Fowl, Game, &c., or eaten cold for Breakfast, at 8d. per lb.

Superior OLD WESTPHALIA HAMS imported by R. C.

Fine OX TONGUES, cured upon the premises, and in the Yorkshire manner, from 3s. 6d. each and upwards.

OLD CHESHIRE CHEESE, for household use, 7d. per lb.

A Dairy of the finest SAGE CHEESE the country produces, varying in shapes and sizes, ripe and ready for use about the middle of November.

Fine Old and New DOUBLE GLOSTER, rich CHEDDER, pale DERBY, BERKLEY, (for toasting), and most other descriptions of Cheese, at moderate prices.

All articles (except Stilton Cheese, on which the charge is only 8d. for the basket) purchased for the country are packed and forwarded to any of the London Coach-offices or Railway Terminals free of extra expense.

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147, Holborn Bars, City.

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GEORGE and JOHN DEANE earnestly invite attention to this beautiful application of scientific principle in the production of a pure and dazzling light. By a simple arrangement of three distinct air currents in combination with a particular position of the cone and button, a change is produced in the flame, the burning spirit is converted into gas, and the flame increased in size and brilliancy. The combustion being thus made perfect, the emission of smell and smuts is rendered impossible, and every objection to a spirit lamp removed. Specimen lamps are constantly burning in George and John Deane's show-rooms, where also a new and splendid assortment of pedestals may be seen.—Deane's, opening to the Monument, 46, King William street, London bridge.

ACCEPTABLE PRESENTS.—The present season is hallowed by one of the most delightful offices of friendship and affection; the interchange of gifts as remembrances of the donors, and tokens of their esteem for the receivers. The most appropriate present becomes the first subject of consideration; a merely useful one can afford no evidence of taste, while a present possessing no claims to utility shows a want of judgment. To combine these requisites, a more fitting souvenir cannot be suggested than

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THE

MACASSAR OIL, KALYDOR, and ODONTO,

each of infallible attributes. In creating and sustaining luxuriant silken tresses, Rowland's Macassar Oil is highly and universally appreciated; Rowland's Kalydor is a preparation of unparalleled efficacy in improving and beautifying the skin and complexion; and Rowland's Odonto, or Pearl Dentifrice, is invaluable for its beautifying and preservative effects on the teeth and gums.

The august patronage conceded by our gracious Queen, and the several Sovereigns of Europe, together with the beauties which adorn the circles of princely and regal magnificence, and the confirmation by experience of the infallible efficacy of these creative renovating specifics, have characterised them with perfection, and given them a celebrity unparalleled.

Beware of Spurious Imitations!

See that the word "ROWLAND'S" is on the wrapper of each article.

Sold by them, at 20, Hatton garden, London; and by Chemists and Perfumers.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES.—A Re-

medy for all disorders of the Pulmonary Organs—in Difficulty of Breathing—in Redundancy of Phlegm—in Incipient Consumption (of which Cough is the most positive indication) they are of unerring efficacy. In Asthma and in Winter Cough they have been never known to fail.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES are free from every deleterious ingredient; they may, therefore, be taken at all times, by the most delicate female and by the youngest child; while the Public Speaker and the Professional Singer will find them invaluable in allaying the hoarseness and irritation incidental to vocal exertion, and, consequently, a powerful auxiliary in the production of melodious enunciation.

Prepared and sold in boxes, 1s. 1d., and tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by THOMAS KEATING, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St Paul's church yard, London. Retail by all Druggists and Patent Medicine Vendors in the Kingdom.

RECENT TESTIMONIALS.

London, 68, Cheapside, Dec. 3, 1845.

DEAR SIR—Having, for some years past, as the winter approached, been subject to a severe Cough, my attention was lately called to your Cough Lozenges, and, after taking two small boxes in the course of the last three weeks, I have no hesitation in saying that, in my opinion, they are the best remedy, and have given me more ease than anything I have ever met with. I am, dear sir, yours truly,

(Signed) WILLIAM WHITE.

To Mr T. Keating, 79, St Paul's church yard.

The following Testimonial of a Cure of Cough of twenty years' standing, and recovery of strength, will be read with much interest:—

SIR—I beg to inform you that, for the last twenty years, I have suffered severely from a cough, and have been under medical treatment with but little relief, and have not for many years been able to walk more than half a mile a day. After taking three boxes of your Lozenges my Cough entirely left me, and I have this day walked to Ross, a distance of four miles. For this almost renewal of life I am solely indebted to your Lozenges. You are at liberty to make what use you please of this letter, and I shall be happy to answer any inquiries respecting my cure. I remain, sir, your obedient and obliged servant.

Pencrais, July 16th, 1845. (Signed) MARY COOKE.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER, DATED ST JOHN'S, NEW-FOUNDLAND.

October 18, 1845.

To Mr THOMAS KEATING, London.

SIR—From an advertisement in the *Christian Witness*, I was induced to get a supply of your COUGH LOZENGES, which I did not receive till some time last month, and they have taken so readily, that I have only a few tins remaining. Several of my customers have expressed their satisfaction with them; and my mother, who has an asthmatic cough, and grandmother (over 80), a chronic cough of many years standing, were both sensibly relieved the first night after taking them. I now require an additional supply a little larger than the first. You will please to send me, by the earliest opportunity, six dozen boxes, and two dozen tins, for which I will remit you by Mr Campbell, who leaves here in December.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant.

SAMUEL KNIGHT.

These Lozenges contain neither Opium, nor any preparation of that Drug.

THE DISSENTERS' and GENERAL LIFE and FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY. Instituted 1837. Empowered by special Act of Parliament, 3rd Vict., c. 20. 62, King William street, London bridge, London; 21, St David street, Edinburgh; 6, King street, Queen square, Bristol.

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Thomas Challis, Esq., Ald.
Jacob G. Cope, Esq.
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Peter Ellis, Esq.
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Thomas P. per, Esq.
Thomas B. Simpson, Esq.
Edward Smith, Esq.
Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P.
John Wilks, Esq.
Edward Wilson, Esq.

On the return of the Christmas quarter, the Directors beg to remind their friends and the public, that in the Fire Department they receive risks of all descriptions, including chapels, school-rooms, mills, goods, and shipping in dock, farming stock, &c., at the same reduced rates as other respectable companies, and make no charge on fire policies transferred from other offices.

In the Life Department they continue to transact all business relating to life assurance, annuities, and family endowments, upon the most liberal terms consistent with sound principles and public security.

Loans also are granted on equitable terms to life assurers on life interests or satisfactory personal securities.

To all Agents and Solicitors, Surveyors and Auctioneers, liberal allowances will be made.

By order of the Board,
THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

WANTED, SEVERAL YOUNG MEN as Assistants in the Grocery trade. Apply to Messrs Osborne and Co., Coventry. Members of Christian churches would be preferred.

MRS. HENRY VINCENT begs to inform her Friends and the Public that she receives a limited number of Young Ladies, to board and educate. The instruction given combines every department of useful and polite education, with the greatest attention to the health and comfort of pupils.
Fellenberg House, Church row, Stoke Newington.

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This Company, possessed of a practicable plan (deposited, in conformity to the standing orders of Parliament), for intercepting every sewer that discharges itself into the Thames, proposes to carry out the contents, under ground, into the country for agricultural purposes.

Thus, the pollution of the waters of the Thames being prevented, an improved drainage for the metropolis will be secured, whilst the sewage, applied to agriculture, will yield a very ample return on the capital which is required.

Applications for prospectuses, or for shares, to be addressed, in the usual form, to

ANDREW MARTIN, Secretary.
4, New London street, City, Dec. 5th, 1845.

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Next week. Complete in 3 vols, royal 18mo, a new and beautiful edition, illustrated with numerous superior Wood Engravings, price 12s. cloth, extra gilt.

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THE SEASONS.—By ROBERT MUDIE, Esq. Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter. In 4 vols, royal 18mo. Embellished with Frontispieces and Vignette Titles, printed in Oil Colours, by Baxter. Each, 3s. 6d., cloth.

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"This is the oldest of the juvenile magazines, and certainly the best of the penny ones. The articles, though for children, are not childish; they aim to impart permanent interest and permanent instruction. In selecting magazines to accompany them through the new year, we can heartily advise our young friends to order 'The Teacher's Offering.'"—*Sunday School Mag.*

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N.B.—The JANUARY NUMBER, price ONE PENNY, will be ENLARGED, and enriched with superior Engravings.

WARD and Co., 27, Paternoster row.

ENLARGEMENT of the ATHENÆUM.—On and from January 3, the ATHENÆUM will be PERMANENTLY ENLARGED to Twenty-Four Large Quarto Pages. Price FOURPENCE.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER.—Notice is hereby given to the Friends and Subscribers of the ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER, that from and after the 1st January, 1846, it will be issued Monthly, instead of Fortnightly, as at present, and that whilst it will be increased to double its present size, its price, with a view to its increased circulation, both at home and abroad, will be reduced to Five Shillings per annum, payable in advance, if ordered through the Anti-Slavery Office, No. 27, New Broad street, London.

The REPORTER can be ordered, also, through the usual News-vendors.

REV. WILLIAM KNIBB.

Just published, "under the patronage of Members of the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society," a splendid Mezzotint

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No. 257.—VOL. V.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1845.

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HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

No. XVII.

THE POWER OF TRUTH.

WE have noted some few of the more prominent grounds which appear to us to afford the earnest friends of the Anti-state-church movement a firm foothold for their hope. That late events have thrust the question, as one worthy of calm investigation, upon the attention of many Churchmen to whom it was, until now, proscribed by inveterate prejudice—that the establishment principle is rapidly developing its essential worldliness—that civil government is, and must be, increasingly hampered by its alliance with the church—that all the tendencies of the age militate against aristocracy, the living soul of the state-church system—and that the agitation which at present absorbs all the reforming energy of Great Britain evidently draws to a close, and will presently leave the stage clear for a more important question than that of Free trade—we take to be sufficient encouragement to the friends of Christian willinghood to hold on their course in cheerful and unflinching perseverance. We have reserved, however, the strongest stimulant till the last—a sort of stirrup-cup to those who have shared with us our "Holiday Excursions"—a final greeting, the remembrance of which may keep the heart warm in spite of all that is externally ungenial. We beg to remind them, in conclusion, of "the power of truth."

The topic is a trite one—all men take it for granted, discourse about it, quote with apparent satisfaction the proverb into which it has been condensed; and yet they who practically believe it are comparatively few. We are apt enough to think we believe in the power of truth, when our faith has respect solely to the train of circumstances which follow in her wake. We have few misgivings about her when she is bravely attended. We can shout acclamations with the multitude easily enough, and do it all the more heartily because we fancy that our homage is paid to truth. The real test of our confidence, however, is applied when we meet the heavenly maiden as a solitary outcast—when we are obliged to recognise her in spite of her forlorn condition—when our choice must lie between the seen and the unseen, between the world's elements of force and the simple vitality, the indestructible energy, of truth, as such. As a general law, men will admit the all-conquering power of truth even here; but as a law applicable to their own particular instance, they commonly repudiate it. It is with them rather an axiom to be assented to than to be acted upon. The understanding receives it, but not the heart.

But our business at present is with the sincere—our aim is to encourage them, and, in furtherance of our purpose, we offer them the following remarks.

To a generous soul, there is an immediate gratification, deep, pure, and permanent, altogether distinct from that which is derived from a sense of rightness, in being committed to the cause of truth. There is a kind of immortality to which we all instinctively aspire—not personal, not the immortality of name and fame, but solely of sympathy. We love to think that what we cherish will live after us. We take a deeper interest in the tree which our hands have planted and our care has tended, from the idea that it will flourish in future generations, when we shall have "shuffled off our mortal coil." We project ourselves into

the far distant future, and pleasingly contemplate the growth and triumph of principles which, in their infancy, we had clasped with fond affection to our bosoms.

Very little, after all, of the happiness of man on earth is furnished by the merely personal and material. Life—at least, life deserving of the name—is mainly developed in hope and in sympathy. It is rather the exercise of the mind upon what is without, than the sensations produced upon the mind by what is actually possessed by it. And this exercise—this acquiescence of the reason, consent of the will, repose of the affections, gratulation of the whole inner man—may occupy itself as busily, as gladly, upon the abstract and the remote, as upon the actual and the present. More than half our emotions spring from our view of possibilities. To be linked, then, with a cause which will abide on earth after we have quitted it—to trust our affections with somewhat that we are assured will never die—to make our influence tell in a direction in which, combining with other influences yet unborn, it will roll onwards and still onwards, until it sweeps away every obstacle—to be amongst the foremost in the progressive series of causes which is destined to terminate in a new and splendid epoch of the world's affairs—this will afford present satisfaction, to a noble mind, higher than could be derived from immediate and actual success. It is thus we identify ourselves with coming ages, and with the progress of truth throughout all time. It is thus we enjoy triumph by anticipation, and realise, before it is externally developed, the almighty power of every God-spoken word.

If there be any salt in the foregoing observations, then the "power of truth," independently altogether of the circumstances under which, and of the period at which, it may fully disclose itself, is a real encouragement to all who are sincerely engaged in the movement against establishments. They may not live to witness the coronation of the mistress whom they serve—their eyes may not be permitted to look upon the downfall of the evil against which they protest. But what then? Is it not a solace to know that the work which they may hand over to their successors, will assuredly be carried on to completion, and that, upon the foundation which they are laying, a glorious edifice will hereafter arise, to constitute, in all future ages, the simple but majestic temple of free Christianity.

They cannot doubt this. They profess to find their principles in the infallible word of God. They regard voluntarism in respect of the maintenance of religious institutions as a portion of the revealed will of their Master. They can have no misgivings, therefore, as to the result. The weapon put into their hands is mighty. The question they have taken up is a question of time only. The obstacles in the way of success, are but the measure of the energy which is to be put forth for their removal. No labour in this cause can be thrown away—no stroke but must needs tell. What of their present weakness? Their ranks will fill up day by day. What of temporary defeats? every such defeat unwraps the germs of future victory. In all things, their path will be that of conquerors. In toil, in anxiety—in reproach and in acclamation—in reverses and in unlooked-for good fortune—in life and in death—they are doing what none can undo—commencing what must be finished—communicating salutary impulses which, in ever-widening circles, will stir society, until, at length, the end of their labours, aspirations, and hopes, will be realised, in the final emancipation of Christianity from all the shackles which human ambition, aided by earthly governments, has bound about her. Oh! 'tis an object worth contending for, even if ages must precede its final consummation! Happy they who know how to confide in the "power of truth!"

Reader! Here end our "Holiday Excursions." They have not been so varied as we could have wished. To all who have accompanied us we return becoming thanks, and pleasantly wish them Adieu.

THE CANTON DE VAUD.—MEETING AT EDINBURGH.

A great public meeting took place on Monday last, at one o'clock, in the Edinburgh Music Hall, for the purpose of sympathising with the seceding pastors of the Canton de Vaud. The hall was densely filled by a most respectable assemblage, composed for the most part of gentlemen—the ladies,

though very numerous, not bearing so large a proportion as is usual on such occasions. The platform was crowded to excess, there being met there ministers and leading members of all the Evangelical Churches in Edinburgh—a fact which was adverted to more than once in the course of the proceedings. Sir James Forrest was called to the chair, and the opening devotions were conducted by the Rev. Mr. Robertson of Portsburgh. The principal speakers were—the Rev. Messrs Tweedie, Andrew Thomson, D. K. Drummond, M'Crie, Alexander, Dr. Candlish, and Graham Spiers, Esq., Sheriff of Edinburgh. Resolutions were proposed and adopted with acclamation. The speeches were worthy alike of the speakers and of the cause they advocated. Mr. Tweedie dwelt much on the great principles which had led to the disruption. Mr. Thomson spoke chiefly of the connexion between the disruption there and that which had preceded it in Scotland—the hallowed ties which bind the two countries together, and the duties incumbent on all British Christians with reference to the persecuted church of Vaud. Mr. Drummond availed himself of this public opportunity, which he said was the first of the kind he had ever felt free to improve since his own secession from the Scottish Episcopal church—for declaring his attachment to the great principles illustrated by Mr. Tweedie, and so nobly acted out by so many pastors both in Scotland and in the Canton de Vaud. Mr. M'Crie dwelt on the connexion between civil and religious liberty—which subject was taken up also by Mr. Alexander, who wished the whole of Britain to raise two cries—one, "Honour to the pastors!" the other, "Shame to the so-called Liberal government" of the Canton de Vaud! Dr. Candlish referred to a letter which Dr. Chalmers had just received from Mr. Gray, of Perth, from Lausanne; and to another which he had that very day himself received from his young companion, Mr. Watson, student of divinity; from which it appeared that the persecution was waxing hotter and hotter every day—that the pastors were not permitted to meet with their people, except in conducting family worship; but that, encouraged by Mr. Gray, who was going to cast in his lot with them, they determined to brave all the consequences of holding meetings for religious worship in the very streets of Lausanne (an announcement which was received with tremendous applause)—and further, that there was reason to believe that the British ambassador was about to remonstrate with the government on their tyrannical procedure, and, in the event of their refusing to listen to him, to demand his passport and retire. Dr. Candlish referred with great effect to the conduct of Cromwell with regard to the Piedmontese during the Protectorate, and of our own government with regard to the persecution endured by proselytes to Christianity at the hands of the Sultan of Constantinople; and he called upon all who profess liberal opinions, whether town councillors or others, to protest against being identified with such a government as that of the Canton de Vaud, which was itself governed by the mere caprice of the masses, and, at their dictation, was ready to go any length in a wrong direction—declaring, in the most emphatic manner, that he would rather be tyrannised over by the Czar Peter of Russia than by a godless mob. He concluded by proposing that a committee should be appointed for the following purposes:—1. To express, in a letter to them, the sympathy of the meeting with the persecuted pastors and people of Vaud. 2. To memorialise our own government on the subject, with a view to their intervention. And, 3. If necessary, to petition both Houses of Parliament on the subject. After a few pointed remarks from Sheriff Spiers, the meeting was closed with a most impressive prayer by D. John Brown, of Broughton place.—*Dumfries Standard*.

The disruption of the national church of the canton (says the *Scottish Guardian*) is over—the good men are out, and out in greater numbers than they themselves ventured to anticipate. We learn, by a private letter, as well as from *La Réformation* of Tuesday, last week, that one hundred and sixty pastors and young ministers are now conclusively severed from the church of the state; and, if a persecuting government allows, will now organise a Free Church for their native canton. It may be remembered that, at the time M. Scholl, of Lausanne, wrote to Mr. Lorimer, about 180 had given in their demission, to take effect from the 15th (Monday last), but that, flattered and frightened by the acts of the executive, thirty-three had recalled their signatures. M. Scholl added, "And I very much fear many more will do it." This was saddening. We have now the gratifying—the delightful—result of a rise of twenty above M. Scholl's number, and of many more above his fears, and of the whole completed. The faithful are now out of the snare which was once and again spread for them. Their resolutions have been turned into deeds. One remarkable proof of their clearness of view and steadiness of purpose is, that when the infidel and persecuting

government sent them a second circular, protracting the opportunity of retracting, renewing the temptation to return, not so much as one of them yielded, and that though the serious consequences of maintaining their ground were by this time fully known.

With regard to the prospects of the Free Church, these, in the circumstances, are evidently very dubious and dark. God is making a severe trial of the faith, and courage, and patience of his people; but, doubtless, all will be overruled for good. Meanwhile, they are going on with the organisation. An attempt has been made to get up a committee for obtaining subscriptions in every parish. Representatives from all these collectors were to meet on this day week, and report their progress. This will be the first report, we presume, upon the building and sustentation funds. With noble magnanimity, worthy of the men and the occasion, we learn that, for the present, they are declining offers of pecuniary assistance from various quarters, desirous, in the first place, and amidst all the darkness of their prospects, to ascertain what can be done by their own parishioners. They will not fare the worse with other Christians for their generosity, should their efforts fail.

We have just room to add, that the students of the college of Lausanne are almost in a body with the ministers who have withdrawn, and are anxious to protect them in their religious meetings. This has provoked the indignation of the Lausanne mob, and skirmishes have taken place between the parties. It is said that the government has issued orders to deprive the students of arms, and a rumour is current that they mean to form a city guard of 200 men. Of course, every Christian must disapprove of whatever partakes of violence, but such statements as these indicate how serious is the crisis. And if the students are to be deprived of the means of self-defence, it seems no more than fair that the mob shall be deprived of those of annoyance and oppression.

In a letter to Dr Chalmers, dated Dec. 13, Mr Gray writes as follows from Lausanne:—

But what are the outed pastors doing? Preaching in the country parts to such of their people as adhere to them, and visiting from house to house in Lausanne, where they dare not preach. One of the Lausanne brethren tells me that he is to dispense the Lord's supper every day next week to a little company of his people each time. He does not think his health can endure long the extraordinary labours which he must go through; but he is full of life and very happy. He says he never was so happy, and so say all whom I have seen.

There is a considerable adherence of the people, but the great majority are hostile. I cannot yet speak of the proportions on either side. I doubt if the pastors themselves know exactly how they stand in this respect. But the feeling prevails among them more and more, that they must not forsake their flocks.

"THE POOR MAN'S CHURCH!"

(From the *Western Times*.)

We require sometimes to rub our eyes, and rouse our reflective faculties, to recover our conviction that we are living in a Christian country. Last Saturday, visiting the Guildhall (Exeter), we had an instance of this. The Mayor, and a full bench of worshipful justices, were sitting in judgment on a case of inquiry, of a character which too frequently makes its appearance in that ancient hall. There is a custom in parishes in the lower part of the city, which entitles the clergyman to demand from each householder one penny per week dominicals. These parishes are the most ancient, and inhabited, consequently, by the poorest of the city. Gentility and the wealthy middle classes, which formerly occupied the region, having gone to healthier and more open localities. The parson, and the poor, and the custom, alone remain. The amount of the exaction is a penny per week from each householder, as dominicals, and fourpence a year as Easter offerings. In the case in question, an old woman, the wife of a labourer—the couple being sixty years of age—appeared as a defaulter in the sum of 9s. 4d. upon a claim for two years' spiritual consolation in their poverty. The theory on which these dominicals repose is an assumption that the parties have partaken of the Holy Sacrament, and have received the pious consolations of the minister, provided by act of parliament. But widely different did the facts make this case appear. It came out in evidence that the poor people, whenever they saw their parson, were in the habit of turning the corner as quickly as possible—bolting from him in the street, and when the messenger, Way, called, all parley was withheld from him. A child declared that the mother or father were not at home, and when on one occasion he succeeded in meeting with the mother, the door was shut in his face, the moment she discovered who inquired for admittance.

The "way of transgressors is hard;" but Parson Melhuish and his way are harder still. They hunt poverty from the house of prayer by the importunity of their demands; and grab and clutch at its hard-earned pittance, in the name of the holiest of all rites—the Communion of the Lord's supper! We refer to this matter most unwillingly—the subject is too sacred, too solemn, to be lightly approached. But there is something at once so ludicrous and so revolting, in seeing a myrmidon of the church chasing and hunting down the poorest of the poor—for sacramental pence—pence for sacraments which they never celebrate—that we would wish emphatically to draw the attention of the friends of our common Christianity to the hideous fact, in the hope that the custom may be abolished and the nuisance abated. We remember a bed being taken out of a poor person's house for dominicals. A pretty commentary on the divine injunction, "Do ye this in remembrance of me!"

THE FAVOURITE RETREAT OF OXFORD PUSEYITES. Littlemore is a village about two or three miles from Oxford. It presents nothing charming in its aspect or situation, but is placed in a low, flat, country; it exhibits no delightful villas, nor agreeable woods and meadows, but one unvaried, uniform appearance, rather dull than pleasant. In the midst of this village we meet with a building (the retreat of the Oxford converts) which has more the look of a barn than a dwelling-house; and, in reality, I think it was formerly a barn. This unsightly building is divided by a number of walls, so as to form so many little cells; and it is so low that you might almost touch the roof with your hand. In the interior you will find the most beautiful specimen of patriarchal simplicity and gospel poverty. To pass from one cell to another you must go through a little outside corridor, covered indeed with tiles, but open to all the inclemencies of the weather. At the end of this corridor you find a small, dark room, which has served as an oratory. In the cells, nothing is to be seen but poverty and simplicity. Bare walls, floor composed of a few rough bricks, without carpet, a straw bed, one or two chairs, and a few books—this comprises the whole furniture! The refectory and kitchen are in the same style—all very small and very poor. From this description one may easily guess what sort of diet was used at table; no delicacies, no wine, no ale, no liquors, but seldom meat; all breathing an air of the strictest poverty, such as I have never witnessed in any religious house in Italy or France, or in any country where I have been. A Capuchin monastery would appear a great palace when compared with Littlemore.—*Tablet* (Roman Catholic paper).

DISSENTING MINISTERS AND THE INCOME TAX.—A late number of the *Gazette* contained a circular from the board of taxes to the Rev. Mr Vardy, intimating that ministers, whose incomes were derived from voluntary contributions, were not liable to the income tax. It appears that the board have reconsidered the matter, hold that they are liable, and have issued the following circular:—

CIRCULAR TO SURVEYORS.

Stamps and Taxes, 15th Dec., 1845.

SIR—The attention of the board having been called to a letter written to the Rev. Mr Vardy, as to the liability to income tax of voluntary contributions accruing to Dissenting ministers and others, I am directed to inform you that the point has been re-considered by the board, and that they are of opinion that all incomes derived from such a source are chargeable with duty; and I am to desire that you will take care the same be assessed in your district accordingly. A letter has been addressed to the Rev. Mr Vardy, to the above effect. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

C. PRESSLY.

ATTENDANCE IN THE PAISLEY ESTABLISHED CHURCHES.—Out of 2,883 sittings, owned by the community in the town's churches, and 100 sittings more, owned in the Abbey, only 209, out of the nearly 3,000, are let and paid for by the zealous adherents to the church as by law established. The total seats at present let, belonging to the community, are as follow—

High Church	83
St George's	69
Middle	45
Abbey	12

Total in the four churches .. 209

—*Glasgow Post*.

CHURCH RATES.—ST. ALBAN'S.—On Wednesday last distresses for church rates were levied on the following persons, who conscientiously object to compulsory payments for the support of religion:—From Mr John Harris, Independent minister, were taken an easy chair and two other chairs; from Mr Thomas Harris, straw-plait merchant, a pair of solid rosewood tables, value £5; from Mr Henry Whitbread, butcher, two mahogany tables and a sofa; from Mr Jesse Hulks, boot and shoemaker, three pairs of Wellington boots. On the following morning (Christmas-day) a handbill was freely circulated in the town on the subject, from which we take the following extract:—

Oh! what touching and moving eloquence!! Who will remain unconvinced to the Church when she has converted his goods? Who will decline to subscribe to the thirty-nine articles when his own articles have gone to subscribe to them? Who will refuse to "Render unto Seizer the things that are Seizer's," when the Church has seized three pair of boots for three of her trusty sons to waddle through their dirty doings to church on Christmas-day, and furniture to furnish them with arguments? How pitiable must have been the lot of the primitive church, compared with her happy successor! She had no brokers, no constables, no ecclesiastical courts, to assist her in her "labour of love"—no, nothing but poor despised truth. And oh! miserable church! she had no churchwardens as our church has, who so faithfully, so piously, perform their *spirituous* duties.

We are informed that legal process is already commenced against the churchwardens and other parties concerned, as the rates are believed to be altogether illegal. Several other Dissenters who object to pay the last rate are threatened by mother church with similar proceedings.

THE FREE CHURCH MANSE FUND affords another instance of the surprising energy of that body, and the power of the voluntary principle. At a late meeting at Edinburgh, Mr Guthrie stated what progress had been made in raising the fund of £100,000, payable in five years. £80,000 had been subscribed in all, of which £40,000 was raised within the synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and £10,000 north of the Dec. The ministers of the Edinburgh Presbytery had contributed upwards of £2,000.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL AND THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLE.—On the Sunday immediately preceding the great manse meeting at Canonmills, there sat in Mr Guthrie's church, in Edinburgh, in the fore front of

the gallery, immediately opposite the pulpit, a pale, spare, little man, marked chiefly by a quick, watchful eye, who seemed very attentive to the discourse, and who, judging from appearances, must have been particularly struck by at least one of the announcements made by the preacher. He had been leaning slightly backwards until nearly the close of the service, in the easy attitude of a person accustomed to listen with small effort; but only a few minutes ere the congregation broke up, the preacher succeeded, it was evident, in making a great impression on the little man. He sat bolt upright—looked sharply and suddenly forward, with something as like a stare as eyes so very watchful, and lips so compressed and so acutely defined, could be at all expected to express—and then, dropping slowly into his former position, he seemed to be pondering over, in his own mind, the statement which had so roused him. It was simply to the effect, that the preacher had already succeeded in procuring, in various parts of Scotland, subscriptions to his manse scheme to the amount of nearly seventy thousand pounds; and that, though not sure what his own congregation would do for it, he was yet inclined to hope the best, partly from the circumstance that he had found time to call on just seven of them, and that the joint contributions of the seven amounted to thirteen hundred pounds. The little spare man had detected in the statement a startling and yet most solid theology, which it was obvious he could perfectly understand. He had met, too, in the course of the day, with several other things of a kind suited to impress him. In the morning he had attended service in the high church—the *bona fide* high church, for Dr Gordon had brought only the congregation with him, not the building—and he had found it very cold and empty; whereas, in forcing his way into Free St John's, he had been almost squeezed flat in the lobby by a besieging crowd of brawny Scotchmen, and he had found every passage and corner densely occupied within. The little spare man was Lord John Russell, the leader of the Whigs.—*Witness*.

THE PUSEYITES.—A clerical correspondent, who gives us his name, mentions to us the receipt of a letter from Cambridge, in which his correspondent says:—"Some of the men (I presume the undergraduates are meant) attend the Roman Catholic church, which is close by our house, every Sunday, in their caps and gowns. The priest here is a very active man."—*Patriot*.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—On the day before Christmas-day Mr Kirby, who is, we understand, one of the principal clerks in Messrs Jones, Loyd, and Co.'s banking-house, received a note, signed "S. J. Loyd," enclosing a draft. The following is a copy of the note:—

Dear Mr Kirby—The enclosed draft for £1,000 I request you will place to the credit of the "Clerks' Christmas Fund." At the close of the first year since my accession to the head of this concern, I am desirous of offering to those through whose assistance I have been enabled to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion, some substantial proof of their services, and of the interest which I feel in all that concerns their comfort and happiness. The year now closing has been marked by some circumstances of an accidental and temporary character, which have tended to throw an unusual degree of labour and trouble on the clerical department of the office. Of the readiness with which this difficulty has been met and overcome I am very sensible, and for this, as well as for the uniform zeal and integrity with which the general duties of the office are discharged, I beg that the clerks will accept my grateful acknowledgment; and that you and they will believe me to be the faithful friend of you all.

Lothbury, Dec. 24.

S. J. LOYD.

Comment is unnecessary on such a communication.

THE RECENT OVERLAND MAIL.—For the first time since October, 1840, the *Times* has been anticipated in the publication of intelligence from India by the extraordinary express which arrived on Monday, the intelligence received by which was published exclusively in the *Morning Herald*. In consequence of the successful trip of Mr Waghorn, *via* Trieste, the French government determined to prove the superiority of the route by Marseilles and Paris. For this purpose a steam-ship of the French navy was specially appointed to wait the arrival of the Indian mail at Alexandria, every means which could prevent delay were employed, and, so soon as the despatches had been put on board, the steamer cast off her moorings and steered a course direct for Marseilles. Meanwhile the English steamer, of inferior power, was detained at least six hours at Malta; the French steamer consequently reached Marseilles probably not much after the English vessel had arrived at Malta. We leave the *Times* to tell the rest of the story:—

We have said that the enterprise was originally undertaken solely with the view of eclipsing, if possible, the feat of Mr Waghorn. We have this upon the word of M. Guizot himself. We were among those who rejoiced in the success of Mr Waghorn's attempt. . . . We expressed, in common with, we believe, every other journal except the *Morning Herald* and the *Standard*, our satisfaction that another route was opened. To punish us for the expression of this honest English feeling M. Guizot, a few days since, informed our correspondent in Paris, that he was determined to exclude from any participation in the result of his experiment, not only *The Times*, but every other journal that had ventured to applaud Mr Waghorn. Could we have a more pregnant proof that England should not rely upon France alone as her line of communication with the East? . . . If success can only be won at the price of slavish adulation, we are well content to copy, as we now do, our Indian intelligence from the *Morning Herald*.

Correspondence.

A SUSTENTATION FUND.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—The letter signed "Duplex," which appeared in your last paper, demands from me a brief notice. It contains a recommendation for which I thank the writer, though I am ignorant of the way in which I should make use of it. If your correspondent has regarded my remarks on the proposed Sustentation Fund as an advocacy of it, he has misunderstood me. There are evils which we ought to endeavour to remove; let something be done—something consistent with our principles—for their speedy removal. This was the substance of my letter. I believe, with "Duplex," that the plan of a Sustentation Fund is an aristocratic one, and that it is dangerous in its tendency, if not wrong in principle. Bad as is the present state of things, it is a smaller evil to endure it, than to effect a change by the adoption of erroneous and unworthy measures. Better breast and beat the waves, with our faces in the right direction, though the effort to progress be unsuccessful, than yield to their force, or enjoy a smooth, and fair, and favourable passage towards a wrong point. Still hoping that something may be done, and done effectually, I remain, dear sir, yours, &c.

Dec. 26th, 1845.

SIMPLEX.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—I am very anxious to hear your opinion respecting the Sustentation Fund. Your correspondents speak very favourably of it, and yet they are desirous to be denominated Congregationalists. There seems to be a strong tendency among the Congregational body towards Presbyterianism, their conferences, associations, their various plans, and continual laudations of the Free Church, Wesleyan Methodism, and so forth, while, at the same time, they boast of their independence. Some of the ministers evidently wish to be made "bishops," and to rule and exercise authority over God's heritage. If those persons see such beauties and excellencies in Methodism and Presbyterianism, let them candidly and honestly adopt either the one or the other, and not endeavour to create a new Presbyterian Congregational church. I think, sir, that he who becomes an Independent should do so from a conviction of its righteousness and its adaptation to man, as an intelligent responsible being, and not from convenience or particular attachment to persons or places. He must be content to be among the "ridiculous minorities," and be prepared to bear all the scorn and obloquy cast upon him, for his attachment to his principles. It is the only system of church government that will suit the advancing intelligence of the age. Your timely remarks on the Congregational Union have done immense good in opening the eyes of our ministers and people to the evils likely to result from it. I trust, after your return from the "Holiday Excursions," you will favour your readers with a few papers on Congregationalism, its scripturality, simplicity, its adaptation to man, and its superior claims to promote true and genuine religion. Yours, &c.

Narbeth, Dec. 20th, 1845.

A LAYMAN.

LEICESTER.—FUNERAL OF THE LATE REV. JOHN BROWN.—The funeral of this highly respected and deeply lamented gentleman took place on Saturday morning last, and was attended by about two hundred persons, consisting of members of St Mary's church, and of most sects in the town, amongst whom were John Biggs, Esq., the Town-clerk; R. Harris, Esq., the Revd. C. Berry and S. Wigg, &c. On Sunday evening the Rev. J. P. Mursell preached a funeral sermon in connexion with the sad event, to a thronged audience in Belvoir-street chapel; funeral sermons were also preached on the same day by the Rev. C. Berry (at the Great Meeting chapel), and the Rev. S. Wigg (at Friar-lane chapel), to crowded congregations. We hear that a funeral sermon will also be preached in St Mary's church, by Mr Lowe, on Sunday evening next.—*Leicester Mercury*.

GRATUITOUS ADMISSION TO THE STATE APARTMENTS, WINDSOR CASTLE.—The daily papers of Saturday make the following announcement:—"Her Majesty the Queen having been graciously pleased to command that, in future, no fee shall be taken from any person visiting the state apartments at Windsor Castle, we are authorised to give notice that, from the 1st of January next, in accordance with regulations issued by the Lord Chamberlain, tickets for the admission of visitors to the state apartments may be obtained, gratis, at Messrs Paul and Dominic Colnaghi and Co.'s, printellers, No. 14, Pall-mall East; Mr Moon's, printeller, No. 20, Threadneedle-street; Mr Mitchell's, librarian, No. 33, Old Bond-street; Messrs Ackermann and Co.'s, printellers, No. 96, Strand.—N.B. The days of admission are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Hours, from April to October, eleven to four; from October to April, eleven to three.

FRAUDULENT SIGNATURES.—Edmund Thomas Yeakell has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment and hard labour, for forging another party's name to the parliamentary deed of a railway company.

CORN LAWS.—There have, during the last twelve years, been no less than forty motions made in parliament for the repeal or the amendment of the corn-laws. The first of these motions was made by Earl Fitzwilliam in the House of Lords on the 14th of May, 1833, "for the revision of the corn-laws, with a view to their repeal," which was negatived without a division; and the last in the House of Commons by Mr Villiers, on the 10th of June, 1845, "for the immediate repeal of the corn-laws," which was negatived by 254 to 122 votes.

FOREIGN PROVISIONS.—The arrivals of poultry and other articles of consumption during the past week for the supply of the markets at this festive season, have been of a remarkably extensive character, whilst the importation of cattle and provisions generally have been of more than the average nature.

Foreign Intelligence.

INDIA.

The extraordinary express in anticipation of the overland mail, arrived in London on Monday. We take the following summary of news from the *Bombay Times* of Dec. 1:—"Intelligence of a warlike character was received yesterday from the Punjab. The Sikh government, it appears, have become incensed at the reported intention of the British authorities to appropriate the territories on this side of the Sutlej, and have urged the soldiery to march towards the river with the view of repelling the expected aggression. By the last accounts some cavalry had actually proceeded in the direction indicated, and though opinion was divided as to the policy of the movement, more men were expected to follow. In the meantime strong measures of defence have been adopted at Ferozepore, and as Sir Henry Hardinge may now calculate upon having a well-disciplined force of some 50,000 men at his command, there can be little fear of the result, whatever course the reckless spirit of the Sikhs may compel them to pursue. Goolab Singh remains at Jumoo; the Ranees continue to conduct the affairs of state; and the army has been separated into three divisions, and placed under the respective commands of Sirdar Tej Singh (the ex-governor of Peshawur), Rajah Lall Singh, and Sirdar Jewun Singh. Lall Singh is still unpopular. Several deserters from our army have been taken into the Sikh service."

From the rest of India the intelligence brought by the present mail is little more than a repetition of what we learned by the last, except that the circumstances attending the conspiracy at Gwalior have had some new light thrown on them.

Scinde is tranquil and healthy, and rising rapidly to prosperity. Oude and the Nizam's territory continue in the same frightful state; while our neighbours, the Afghans, are too busily engaged in domestic dissensions to think of approaching India. The other news is altogether unimportant.

There is no later intelligence from China.

AMERICA.

The Cambria brings twelve days' later intelligence from New York. The following is the summary of the news:—

"1. The whole diplomatic correspondence between the American and British ministers upon the Oregon question.

"2. Intelligence from Washington, upon the best authority, that the negotiations, which it was thought had been suspended, have been re-opened by Mr Pakenham, upon new propositions of compromise.

"3. In the event of any difficulty taking place with England upon this question, the probable action of Congress upon the subject, and the proposition, by Colonel Benton, of organising 200,000 militia, in order to meet the important crisis, including also a suitable increase of our steam navy, fortifications, and naval armaments.

"4. The re-opening of negotiations between Mexico and the United States, and the proposition for the purchase of California, with the probable expectation of a magnificent plan for uniting both republics, so as to give peace to both, and to present an important front to all European governments.

"These things affect our foreign relations. In domestic affairs, the prospect that a revenue tariff will be established by Congress, together with a specie currency system for the government, as the best general plan to prevent inflations, give protection to all the interests of the country, and enable it to meet and prevent all commercial explosions hereafter."

The proceedings of Congress are of no importance. The committee on foreign relations in the Senate consisted of Mr Allen, of Ohio, chairman, a red-hot Oregon man; and Messrs Cass, of Michigan; Atherton, of New Hampshire; Archer, of Virginia; and Sevier, of Arkansas. Mr Archer was chairman of the foreign committee in the last Senate.

The extra edition of the *New York Herald*, of the 15th instant, contains rumours that the Oregon negotiation had been re-opened by Mr Buchanan, and that he proposed to re-arrange the dispute by carrying the British boundary through the centre of the territory, bounded by the 49th degree and the Columbia river.

FRANCE.

The French Chambers were opened on Saturday by the King in person, with the usual formalities. Louis Philippe was received with great acclamations. The speech, after an allusion to the great works in progress—"on the one hand powerful guarantees of peace and security, and, on the other, the means of extending its fruitful industry and of spreading prosperity throughout all parts of our territory, and among all classes of the population, and the flourishing state of the finances"—continues:—

"I continue to receive from all foreign powers pacific and amicable assurances. I hope that the policy that has maintained general peace through so many storms will one day do honour to the memory of my reign."

The friendship which unites me with the Queen of Great Britain, and of which she has lately given me so affectionate a proof, and the mutual confidence of our two governments, have happily ensured the good and intimate relations of the two states. The convention concluded between us to put an end to the odious traffic in slaves, is, at this moment, in the course of execution. Thus, by the cordial co-operation of the maritime forces of the two states, the slave trade will be effectually put down, and, at the same time, our commerce will be again placed under the exclusive surveillance of our flag.

"I have reason to hope that the great exertions of France and England will bring about, on the banks of

the Plata, the re-establishment of relations commercial, regular, and pacific. This is the only object of our efforts."

"Events which I deplore, but which have given a new opportunity for the display of the heroism of our soldiers, have troubled our possessions in Africa. I have taken prompt measures to ensure that the domination of France shall everywhere maintain the force and ascendant which belongs to it. With the aid of time, our energetic perseverance will lay the foundation of the security and prosperity of Algeria."

"Gentlemen, you have given me your loyal concurrence in the great and difficult task which the will of the nation has called on me to fulfil. Providence has blessed our efforts. It has, also, granted to me precious consolations in my family. Wherever my sons have appeared, I have the confidence that they have worthily carried the name of France. My grandsons increase in number, and grow under my eyes. My dearest wish and my fondest hope is, that, by our devotion to France, by our zeal in serving it well, its affection may be ensured to us, and the intimate union of my country and family be for ever confirmed."

The speech was followed with cries of "*Vive le Roi*." The newly-created peers and the newly-elected deputies were then sworn in in the presence of the King. The Keeper of the Seals then declared the session of 1846 opened. The King then rose, and, having saluted the peers and deputies, retired, accompanied by the royal family and a deputation from both houses.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.—The *Univers* publishes the following letter, dated Rome, the 18th inst.:—"Yesterday, the 17th of December, the Emperor of Russia took leave of the Holy Father, and at midnight he quitted Rome. I repeat to you that, during the interview with the Emperor of Russia, the Pope, in reply to the Czar, who spoke of the laws by which his kingdom was governed, said,—'These are human laws, and your Majesty may change them; and I reclaim such a change in the name of the divine laws. Both of us, Sire, are Sovereigns, but with this difference, that you can change the laws of your empire, and that I cannot alter mine. Both of us will have to appear before our Supreme Judge, and I sooner than your Majesty; but your Majesty will come after me, and both of us will have to render an account of our government. That idea imposes upon me the duty to defend my faithful children who live in your Majesty's states.' The Emperor was much affected at these words, and clasped the hand of his Holiness, which he kissed most affectionately. He then promised to act in conformity with the wishes of the Pope, and withdrew." The Emperor left Rome for Florence on the 18th instant.

C. M. CLAY.—A writer from Kentucky, to the *Cin. Herald*, says that the mob has more than trebled C. M. Clay's subscription list in his region. He states that one slaveholder in his town has recently emancipated his twelve slaves, and another eight, making twenty cases of emancipation in one day.

A GERMAN APOSTLE OF TEMPERANCE.—The *Journal des Débats* publishes the following letter, dated Osnabrueck (Hanover), the 9th inst.:—"Father Mathew, surnamed the Apostle of Temperance, has found a worthy rival in the person of the Lutheran chaplain, M. Marc Chretien Frederick Seling, of our city. This venerable ecclesiastic, who some days since returned to this town, after having travelled through the province of Hildesheim, preached this year in favour of temperance in more than fifty towns or villages, where he administered the pledge to 20,000 inhabitants of both sexes to abstain completely from all spirituous liquors. During two years and a half that M. Seling has been labouring in the cause of temperance he has added to the temperance societies of Germany, 52,682 new members, of whom 25,141 are male, and 27,740 female, and 22,741 young persons of from 12 to 16 years of age."

THE CALIFORNIAS.—Accounts from Vera Cruz to the 6th of November, published in the American journals received by the recent arrival of the packet-ship Sea, Captain Freeman, report that the Special Minister delegated by the Executive of the United States to negotiate the arrangement of the difficulties existing between the two countries had submitted the following propositions:—1. The Rio del Norte to be the boundary. 2. An indemnity of 5,000,000 dollars. 3. Upper California to be ceded to the United States, as far down as the head of the Gulf; the river Gila, which empties into the Colorado of the west, to be the boundary. These terms, it is stated, were under discussion in the Mexican Senate.

The Earl of Ducie has, it is said, disposed of Woodchester-park, the magnificent family domain in Gloucestershire, to an opulent merchant. The consideration money is stated to have been £160,000.—*Globe*.

THE NEW PLANET ASTREA.—Astronomers are unanimous in deciding the new star to be another planet of the solar system. The discoverer, Professor Schumacher, has left the determination of the name to Mr Encke, and Mr Encke calls it "Astrea." It is not yet decided whether it is an asteroid, or a planet beyond Herschell. In the latter case it is, probably, not less than 3,686,000,000 of miles from the sun, and will require 240 years to perform its revolution.

SINGULAR UNANIMITY.—Dr. Buckland and his brother savans have been unanimous in one thing about the potato, which was, that the first thing requisite to save it was instantly to "remove the peel." Russell and his party, in their desire to save England, seem to have been impressed with precisely the same necessity.—*Punch*.

IRELAND.

MR O'CONNELL AND THE CONDITION OF HIS TENANTRY.

The *Times* Commissioner, in a letter from Killybegs of the 20th inst., has again raised the question of the condition of the peasantry on Mr O'Connell's estate, and in such a manner as completely to disprove the assertions made by Mr Maurice O'Connell in the long letter from him, which was published in the *Times* on Monday week. The charge made against Mr O'Connell by the *Times* Commissioner, resolved itself, generally, into that of totally neglecting his tenants, whom he described as having "no agricultural schools, no encouragement, none to lead or to guide them," and of being "left to subdivide their land and to multiply until their principal feature was distress." This charge was not only denied in Mr O'Connell's peculiar manner by Mr. O'Connell himself, but drew forth the letter from his son Maurice to which we have adverted, and a number of "testimonials" from friends of Mr O'Connell, all of whom concurred in denouncing the *Times* Commissioner as "a liar." That gentleman offered to refer the question of the truth of his statements to twelve arbitrators—six on his own side from different parts of Ireland, and six selected from the friends of Mr O'Connell. This proposal was refused, and an application was therefore made by him for another gentleman from the *Times* office to accompany him back into Kerry, to take notes of what he saw in the presence of Mr O'Connell, or of his friends, if they chose to go with them. The *Times* Commissioner and the reporter accordingly visited the estate, and passed three days in examining it. On the third day they were accompanied by Mr Maurice O'Connell himself, and with him inspected his father's estates "from Waterville to Derrynane Beg." A part of what they saw is thus graphically told:—

"We drove on to Derrynane Beg. We entered it by a bridle path for horses. Down this path a mountain stream was running ankle deep, and by this road we made our way, jumping from stone to stone, and sometimes compelled to wade, to the much-reputed Derrynane Beg. The cottages are built in clusters of two and three together—a dung-heap always beside each, over which we had generally to scramble to get into the door. We entered several of these cabins, some inhabited by tenants, and others by labourers. In their general description the cabins are thatched with potato tops, with flat stones and sods piled on the thatches to mend them and keep them down; the door-ways are narrow, and about four feet and a half high; the windows of such cottages as had them, are about eight inches by ten, without glass, and stopped up by boards; many of them are without any hole for a window at all; a cow or a pig was usually inside, and half a dozen children; the cottages inside were almost invariably quite dark, and filled with smoke, which found its way out of the doorways; and our inspection was carried on by means of lighted splints of bog timber, lighted at the turf fire on the mud floor, the dull red glare of which, through the thick smoke, on half-naked children, pigs, cows, filth, and mud, was such a picture as I cannot draw."

The *Times* Commissioner afterwards sums up in these words:—"I have been all over England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and I declare to you solemnly, that in no part of the United Kingdom is such neglected wretchedness—such filth, such squalor, such misery of every kind—to be seen, as I saw that day on Mr O'Connell's estate, in the presence of Mr Maurice O'Connell." . . . "And now, having gone over Mr O'Connell's estate for three days, accompanied by his son and his servants, with laborious minuteness; I ask, is there a single iota of my former statement about his tenantry which is not in every particular confirmed? And yet, for making that statement I have been branded with almost every newspaper in Ireland as (to quote their phraseology) a 'liar.' We may add that the *Times* reporter minutely confirms this statement. Here are instances:—

"Next came J. Donoghue's cabin. It was scarcely clean enough for an English pigsty. He, his wife, and four children slept on a heap of straw. Mr. Maurice O'Connell seemed surprised at the existence of himself or his cottage, and asked his wife where she came from. 'From our own village, Ardara,' she said. He then inquired how long she had been there? She replied, for nine years. We asked her how she and her family lived. 'Very, very badly,' she said. 'Her husband had a little score-ground (conacre), but they had not half enough of potatoes to eat, and nothing else. Mr. O'Connell only took 1s. a-year from them.' The only sent in the house was a heap of stones, and a chest sufficed for their table. The next tenant, named Donnelly, was, if possible, in a more deplorable condition, and seemed equally unknown to Mr O'Connell, though he had lived in his present hut for four years. There was no window in it—no chair: some sticks in the corner, an iron pot, and a bed of straw, were all the furniture I could see. At first he could not say whether he paid any rent or not, but at last he remembered that he paid £1 a-year for the grass of one cow. The doorway, which was surrounded by mud, was about three feet high by two feet broad. Close to this were two hovels, quite as miserable, which, with several others that we entered, were held by the same class of tenants. Further description would be tedious and useless; they were all alike."

As a contrast to the condition of Mr O'Connell's tenants, let us turn to the report given of that of the tenants of the Marquis of Lansdowne:—

"The aspect of the adjacent farm of Nurrigh, belonging to the Marquis of Lansdowne, was very different. Here, with few exceptions, well slated houses, shining with whitewash, met the eye—the fields look well cultivated, the hedges and potato and cabbage gardens neat and trim, and the exceptions seemed in general rather attributable to the carelessness of the tenant than to the neglect of the landlord. We entered the house of Dan Sullivan; it was roomy, clean outside with whitewash, and tolerably neat within; well filled with the ordinary

furniture of the Kerry peasant,—wooden seats and tables, a dresser, feather bed, &c. A large pot of potatoes was boiling over the fire, and the farmer's daughter had just removed another containing boiled cabbages for the cows; and yet this man had but two cows' grass, for which he paid £4 16s. a-year. This was a fair sample of his lordship's tenantry on this land, some being better, and some, but very few, being worse."

THE IRISH COLLEGES.—The Presbyterians of Dublin held a special meeting on Tuesday, at which a requisition was unanimously adopted, and since forwarded to the moderator of the General Assembly, to call a *pro re nata* meeting, for the purpose of taking measures to erect a college for the education of candidates for the Presbyterian ministry, independent of the Government institute about to be founded in Belfast. Several other Presbyteries in Ulster have taken a similar course, and it is not improbable that the movement will be very general among the whole body of Dissenters—the Unitarians, perhaps, excepted. It thus appears that the Ministerial plan—one of the Premier's "messages of peace," by the way—has been "repudiated" by an overwhelming majority of all religious sects.

THE POTATO DISEASE.—Already there are complaints of scarcity from some parts of the country, and fever has appeared in various towns of the south. The extreme severity of the weather, and the very high price of fuel, must greatly aggravate the sufferings of the poor. No doubt, the potato blight has been checked in many districts; but the losses already suffered have left but a remnant of the crop. Apprehensions are entertained that the scarcity will commence so early as February—others say March. The clergymen of Kilfeacle and Golden, in communications to the Mansion House committee, states that parents are now counting the number of potatoes which their children are to eat for each meal.

THE IRISH REPRESENTATIVE PRELATES for the session of 1846 are, the Archbishop of Armagh, and the Bishops of Tuam, Derry, and Limerick.

ANTRIM ELECTION.—Sir Horace Beauchamp Seymour has been returned without opposition for the county of Antrim. The election took place at Carrickfergus. Sir Horace pledged himself to support "the interests of Protestantism;" he refused to pledge himself to vote for a repeal of the Maynooth grant; but he undertook to oppose any augmentation. The *Morning Chronicle*, in speaking of this election, says—"So complete is the prostration of the Orangemen, and such the depth of debasement into which they have sunk already, that the very man who proposed the Peel candidate upon the Antrim hustings, was the very Mr Watson who has been removed from the Magistracy and Deputy-Lieutenancy of the same county!"

SCARCITY AND FEVER.—In the *Tipperary Vindicator* of Saturday, a journal which has hitherto endeavoured to allay alarm in reference to the potato failure, appears the following startling account of the condition and prospects of the peasantry in that county:—

"It is with the utmost pain we are compelled to state that our accounts from the surrounding districts are of the most disheartening character possible, and calculated in a great measure to spread alarm far and wide. Most respectable and trustworthy correspondents assure us confidently that in many places the usual support and stay of the great bulk of the agricultural population are becoming scarce—that, in point of fact, want is beginning to appear in various districts. We have seen a statement from the Rev. Walter Cantwell, C.C., Kilfeacle, of the most gloomy description regarding that district, which is by far one of the richest and most abundant in Tipperary. In the neighbourhood of Borrisoleigh, we are told, that the poorer portion of the population are counting the potatoes for their children, whilst the parents leave the table without being able to satisfy the cravings of hunger. A gentleman in the Silver-mines district tells us that there also the poor are in a very wretched condition, owing to the same cause. Some families are already without anything like a sufficiency of potatoes! whilst there are many others whose stock is nearly exhausted!! Fever too is making its appearance, and of a very malignant type. We have heard of a few instances of putrid fever of the worst character, which are attributed to the unwholesome and deleterious provisions which the unfortunate victims of this fearful disease were obliged to use."

ANTI-SLAVERY MEETINGS IN BELFAST.—Mr Frederick Douglas, the anti-slavery missionary, has been for the last week delivering lectures in Belfast to very crowded and respectable audiences.

THE EARL OF CARLISLE.—We are happy to be able to contradict a report which has appeared in one of our contemporaries of the death of the Earl of Carlisle. Up to two o'clock this afternoon no news of such an event had reached his lordship's establishment in town.—*Globe*.

MR BUSFIELD FERRAND AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—Mr Ferrand assembled his constituents, at Knaresborough, on Tuesday, to give them an account of his stewardship. He took a lugubrious view of the parliamentary session; accusing Sir Robert Peel of having "betrayed" Protestantism through the instrumentality of the Maynooth grant, and foretelling that a more "dreadful blow" was yet in reserve, and would ere long be struck, in the payment of the Popish priests.

THE MURDER AT WESTMINSTER.—Monday, the 19th of January, has been fixed upon for the execution of Martha Browning, convicted of murdering her landlady in London. She has confessed her guilt. Her motive was the desire to obtain possession of the "Bank of Elegance" note, which she mistook for a real five-pound note. She strangled the old woman with a cord, while in bed; and in the morning placed the body on a box, to make it appear that her victim had committed suicide.

THE "AGRICULTURAL MIND" AND THE REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS.

Meetings in support of "agricultural protection" became numerous when the breaking-up of the Peel government was known; and they continue to be held, although Sir Robert Peel has been recalled. Special meetings have been held of the Protection Societies for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Barnstable, North Devon, Rutland, and Spalding.

The Berkshire Protection Society met at Reading on Saturday. Lord Barrington and Mr Palmer, two of the county members, were present; but the third, Mr Pusey, was kept away by ill health. Mr Morent was in the chair, and the attendance is represented as unusually large. The language held was, throughout, of a calm but decided character, exhibiting one peculiar feature—the affectation of delicacy with which the speakers referred to Sir Robert Peel, coupled with doubts as to whether the corn question was the one upon which his Ministry had been broken up. Lord Barrington complimented the meeting on their moderation:—"This meeting had done itself most infinite credit by not taking the course pursued by some other meetings of a similar description, in condemning a man unheard." Another point was a general assertion of the opinion, as held by the farmers, that, if there were to be a free trade in corn, there must of necessity be a free trade in everything. The resolutions denounced the League, as dangerous and arrogant; asserted that the cry of scarcity was altogether unsupported by facts; and pledged the meeting to prepare for the next election.

At the meeting of the Buckingham Protection Society, the Duke of Buckingham and his son the Marquis of Chandos took part in the proceedings; but the speeches are unreported. The resolutions expressed the "surprise and indignation of the meeting that ministers should have forfeited the principle they have so recently advocated," and advised the presentation of petitions to both Houses, "praying for equal and sufficient protection to every branch of British industry."

INSUBORDINATION OF THE FARMERS.—A political explosion occurred at the dinner of the South Devon Agricultural Association, last week, at Kingsbridge, the occasion being some doubt as to the staunchness of the county members on behalf of protection. Mr Stanley Carey, of Follaton, was in the chair, and the members for the county, Lord Courtenay and Sir John Yarde Buller, were present. The malcontents allowed matters to go on quietly till Mr Locock was called upon by the chairman to return thanks for "the committee;" but then, before he could utter a word, vociferous calls were made for "Mr Kivell;" and a person who sat behind that gentleman advised him to "propose the county members, and we'll back you up." Thus encouraged, Mr Kivell rose and commenced speaking; Mr Locock, who directly faced him, spoke also, with great energy; the one voice drowned the other, and both were absorbed in the roars of laughter which burst from all parts of the room. The chairman, in utter despair of restoring order, abandoned the chair, remarking that it was time to "prevent a squall." The county members, and the gentlemen at the upper end of the table instantly started from their seats, and followed the chairman: their passage to the door was greeted by a storm of hisses from those who remained, and the ears of Sir John, who brought up the rear, were assailed with cries of "Three groans for the county members." A new chairman was then installed, and the wrangle was renewed, as to whether it was competent to the company to enter upon political subjects. Several farmers insisted that the crisis was too important to be fettered by rules, and that it was right they should know the opinions of their members on the subject of Lord John Russell's letter. Mr Kivell declared that, if a distinct explanation were not given, he should not again vote for them. At length the chairman was directed to request the attendance of both members at a public meeting, the object being "to ascertain their opinion on the state of agriculture and the present crisis."

At a civic dinner in Devizes, on Thursday, the subject of the day was anxiously alluded to. Mr Sotherton, M.P. for North Wiltshire, was the chairman; the two members for the borough, Mr Heneage and Mr Bruges, and Mr Neeld, the member for Chippenham, were among the guests. These gentlemen delivered speeches remarkable for their subdued and dubious, if not desponding tone. Mr Sotherton thought that now was the time for constituencies to show confidence in their representatives, "by leaving them unshackled to do what they thought to be for the best." Mr Heneage spoke of "troublesome" times, and assured the company that the situation of *Conservative* members in the ensuing session would be "one of great doubt and difficulty." "Protection" would be a prominent question; and one word as to it:—

He always thought that, to attempt to bring one interest alone under the principle of free trade, was unfair and unjust; and it was on account of its unfairness and injustice that every attempt to bring it about had hitherto failed, and would, he believed, continue to be defeated by the good sense of the country. Should, however, the time arrive when a minister should be bold enough to say to the country, "I intend to repeal the corn laws; but I intend, at the same time, to make your silks, your sugar, your timber, and other necessities cheaper, and to alter the system of taxation so that the change shall not be felt;" if a minister should be found sagacious enough to say, "When I do this I will provide for the great deficiency which will be produced in the revenue without any increase of taxation on the industry of the country," then would be the grand time for the agricultural interests—for all interests—to consider what plan would be most advantageous to adopt.

Protection meetings have likewise been held at Worcester, Warwick, Colchester, Haddington (East Lothian), Bury St Edmund's, Rutland, and Blandford, at which, strong resolutions were passed in support of protection, and against any further alteration of the corn-laws.

We present a few extracts from speeches delivered at these meetings, as showing the general state of feeling amongst the agriculturists:—

With regard to the present government, if it was their intention to interfere with the present corn laws, he thought the country should, at all points, express their feelings on that subject; but, on the other hand, if the policy of the government was to adopt no measures inconsistent with the interests of the country, then they should do all they could to support them [cheers]. He could not and would not go to the House of Commons pledged to any details whatever.—*Mr Pakington, M.P., at Worcester.*

He expressed his belief that Sir Robert Peel would introduce some modified measure of corn laws, with a view to their speedy and final abolition altogether [hear]. If they concurred with him, they would take immediate steps to secure protection. They must exert themselves, or, before long, it would be too late. They must present petitions, and, above all, they must press it upon their representatives not, in the slightest degree, to give way, or to throw any tendency to abolish protection.—*Mr Bolton King (a Whig), M.P., at Warwick.*

It was not a question of Sir R. Peel or Lord J. Russell, but of protection or no protection; protection or free trade. By their votes and influence he called upon them to send those to Parliament who would show to those in favour of free trade, that Essex was the strongest opponent they ever had to contend with on this question. The proceedings of that day would go forth to the world, that the men of Essex were still up and doing [hear].—*Mr Baker, at Colchester.*

From what he had been able to learn, they would be able to make a most determined stand against an alteration in the corn-laws, although they did not possess the same facilities as the League had.—*Sir J. Tyrrell, at the same.*

At Bury St Edmund's the monopolists were defeated; a resolution pointing out the importance of a settlement of the corn-law question was carried by a large majority. Bury St Edmund's being the centre of the agricultural district of West Suffolk, this demonstration against protection speaks volumes.

The monopolists of North Lancashire, alarmed at the success of the Anti-Corn-law League, are now making an effort for "improving and rendering more efficient the registration of voters in that interest," which, they say, cannot be carried out at a less expense than from £1,500 to £2,000 annually, and subscriptions for two years are requested as an experiment, the maximum being limited to £10.

YE PEASANTRY OF ENGLAND. DEDICATED TO THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

(From Punch.)

Ye peasantry of England,
Who till our fertile leas,
How little do ye think a man
May live on, if he please?
Your weekly wages, it is plain,
As far again would go,
And keep you so cheap,
(For Norfolk's Duke says so)
If, when hunger rages fierce and strong,
To curry you would go.

This powder, hungry fathers,
From all expense will save;
For if your children eat thereof,
No other food they'll crave:
And any time that wages fall,
(As oft they fall, you know),
'Twill come cheap a pinch to steep
In water—a pint or so;
And when hunger rages fierce and strong,
To your curry powder go.

Our labourers need no dainties,
But something strong and cheap;
No steak from off the rump they crave,
No chop from off the sheep:
With curry powder, thrice a week,
Warm into bed they'll stow,
Nor ever roar out for more—
Their place so well they know;
But when hunger rages fierce and strong,
To the curry powder go.

The 'tato crops of England
May all to gangrene turn,
While Norfolk's Duke about your lot
His wise head shall concern.
Meanwhile, ye hardy labourers,
Your song of thanks should flow
To the fame of his name
Who the powder made you know;
Which, when hunger rages fierce and strong,
Will set you in a glow.

We understand that the Duke of Rutland has expressed his intention of beginning on Friday (this day) to kill off all the hares and rabbits on his preserves. This will be a great boon to the tenant and neighbouring farmers, who have long been considerable losers from the extensive amount of injury done to their crops by these animals.—*Derby Reporter.*

THE OLD BAILEY EXHIBITION.—The portal of the Old Bailey, like that of St Paul's cathedral, is guarded by a Cerberus, who seeks a sop for admission to the interior. A correspondent of the *Times* visited the former place a few days ago. The doorkeeper (he states) asked me 2s. 6d. for admission to the gallery; and when I offered 1s., said, in a sepulchral voice, "Oh, it is a horrid murder, Sir! it's just coming on." Disliking to pay so much for half an hour's initiation into the mysteries of Old Bailey practice, I turned from the door, but was followed down stairs, and told I might go in for 1s. 6d., "and it was well worth it." He suggests to the authorities the propriety of putting up a board in some conspicuous place, stating the price of admission "at so much per crime."

THE LATE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The *Spectator* of Saturday gives the following as the correct version of the cause of Lord John Russell's resignation of the commission to form a Whig administration:—

Coming to London in compliance with a summons from the newly-appointed Premier, Lord Grey travelled with a companion high in the Whig councils; who attended all the meetings in Chesham place after their arrival. To that companion Lord Grey communicated his determination to take no part in any Ministry of which Lord Palmerston should hold the foreign department; and he had every reason to rely on the belief that the sentiment so expressed would have been communicated to Lord John Russell. Whether it was so communicated or not, Lord Grey took care that Lord John Russell should not be ignorant of his views; although they were so presented as to avoid the appearance of dictation. On the evening of the Wednesday on which the Whigs had determined to undertake the Government, Lord Grey went home and wrote a letter to Lord John, in which he urged great caution in distributing the offices of the new ministry; pointed out the necessity of making it as little as possible like a revival of the Melbourne cabinet; impressed on the expectant Premier that no regard to personal feelings ought to interfere with the allotment of offices; and that his joining the government, though he promised it his cordial support in any case, must depend on his being satisfied with all the arrangements regarding offices. Lord John Russell must have known Earl Grey's opinions in regard to Lord Palmerston's foreign policy, and could scarcely have misunderstood these hints. If he was in doubt, he should have asked for an explanation. When at last, no choice was left to Lord Grey but to declare his peremptory objection, he did so in a way which forbade every suspicion of personal feeling. The colonial office, with the leadership in the House of Lords, had been offered to himself. He objected to placing Lord Palmerston in the foreign department, because such an appointment would create alarm among foreign powers, and also among the great body of the community at home, including a larger proportion of the Liberal than of the Conservative party: without himself condemning or criticising Lord Palmerston's policy, he objected to his being placed in the Foreign office, simply as a fresh difficulty in the way of a Liberal ministry. At the same time, Lord Grey distinctly declared that he should be most happy to have Lord Palmerston as a colleague in any other department; and in order to such an arrangement, he offered to yield the Colonial office, and the leadership of the House of Lords, if it were thought advisable to raise Viscount Palmerston to the British peerage for the purpose. Lord Grey, therefore, so far from evincing personal dislike, expressed perfect willingness to act not only with but in some degree under Lord Palmerston; and so far from being dictatorial or "impracticable," he showed the utmost disposition to accommodate his own pretensions, or to waive them altogether, if he could not conscientiously act with the new Cabinet as Lord John Russell might choose to form it.

MR COBDEN.—We are happy to be able to state, from unquestionable authority, that the Presidency of the Board of Trade was offered to Mr Cobden by Lord John Russell. There was a demur on the part of some individuals, but the objections were overruled. This offer was, however, declined by the distinguished champion of corn-law repeal, who must have felt that office would tie him up from making those efforts which will still be wanted to ensure the final triumph of the cause which he has advocated with such unparalleled zeal, talent, and success.—*Scotsman.*

There are rumours, by no means improbable, of further changes in the Cabinet. The Earl of Dalhousie, it is said, will become a Cabinet Minister; Earl St. Germain succeeds the Earl of Lonsdale as Postmaster-General, with a seat in the Cabinet; Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst will retire to the ease due to his advanced years and declining health, but some say that he will sit out the session; the name of Sir Edward Sugden has, of course, been current as his successor, though on no apparent authority; and the Earl of Ellenborough is talked of as President of the Council.

Like their dispersed rivals, most of the re-established Ministers have left town for the Christmas holidays. Sir Robert Peel went to Drayton Manor on Wednesday.

The death of the late Lord Wharfedale is thought to have been caused by mental excitement during the late ministerial crisis.

The *Gazette* of Friday night contains the official announcement of a number of facts already known through other sources—the assembling of Parliament on the 22nd January; the issuing of a writ for the Borough of Buckingham, and the appointment of Mr. William Ewart Gladstone to be Colonial Secretary, &c.

Mr George William Hope, M.P. for Southampton, is expected to resign the office of Under-Secretary for the Colonies.

PRINCIPLES OF LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S PROJECTED MINISTRY.—The following short note from Mr. Macaulay, says the *Scotsman* of Saturday, will be read with interest. It was written in reply to one from the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, transmitting the memorial from that body to the Queen, in favour of opening the ports:—

London, Dec. 22, 1845.

You will have heard the termination of our attempt to form a government. All our plans were frustrated by Lord Grey. I hope that the public interests will not suffer. Sir Robert Peel must now undertake the settlement of the question. It is certain that he can settle it. It is by no means certain that we could have done so. For we shall to a man support him; and a large proportion of those who are now in office would have refused to support us. On my own share in these transactions I reflect with unmixed satisfaction. From the first, I told

Lord John that I stipulated for one thing only—total and immediate repeal of the corn laws; that my objections to gradual abolition were insurmountable; but that, if he declared for total and immediate repeal, I would be, as to all other matters, absolutely in his hands; that I would take any office, or no office, just as suited him best; and that he should never be disturbed by any personal pretensions or jealousies on my part. If everybody else had acted thus, there would now have been a Liberal ministry. However, as I said, perhaps it is best as it is.

I do not think that, if we had formed a government, we should have entertained the question of paying the Roman Catholic priests of Ireland. I cannot answer for others; but I should have thought it positive insanity to stir the matter.

I will send your petition to the secretary of state for the home department, as soon as it is clear that the government is settled.

Ever yours truly,

T. B. MACAULAY.

J. E. Macfarlan, Esq., Edinburgh.

THE LATE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.—It is no secret that the dissensions between the Duke and the Premier have been so frequent and violent, as often to place the Sovereign in a very disagreeable position, and make her regret the more tranquil days of the Whig Cabinet. During the many councils that have been held within the last month, the Duke's violence has been so great and his voice so loud, that the attendants in the outer rooms have caught the sound, and have learned secrets not intended for their hearing.—*Birmingham Journal.*

THE QUEEN AND THE LATE CRISIS.—In the pranks and bunglings of the last three weeks, there is one part which, according to all report, has been played most faultlessly—that of a constitutional sovereign. In the pages of history the directness, the sincerity, the scrupulous observance of constitutional rules which have marked her Majesty's conduct in circumstances the most trying will have their place of honour. Unused as we are to deal in homage to royalty, we must add that never, we believe, was the heart of a monarch so warmly devoted to the interests of a people, and with so enlightened a sense of their interests.—*Examiner.*

THE CHANCELLORSHIP.—After the resignation of Lord Lyndhurst, which is likely soon to take place, Sir R. Peel intends dividing the political from the judicial functions, by which the office of Lord Chancellor will become free from the ups and downs of ministerial mishaps. The effect of this will be to give the first-appointed Chancellor a "fixity of tenure," but thereby to place the other ex-chancellors in as hopeless a position as if they were "Yellow Admirals." As to Sir Edward Sugden, there would be this difficulty in the way: Sir Robert Peel has pledged himself that a vacancy in the Irish Chancellorship is—if occurring under his Premiership—to be filled up from the Irish bar, and he is not just now prepared to add a new row to his Irish difficulties. Independently of that, Sir Edward Sugden does not seek a peerage, and this appendage has become indispensable to the English Chancellorship. Under these circumstances Sir Robert Peel will be compelled to adopt one of two courses, for a third course is not here open to him. Matters cannot remain as they are, for Lord Lyndhurst is about to retire. And Sir Robert must take to the judicial department either Lord Brougham or Lord Cottenham. It is easy to see how, being confined to such an alternative, he must act. Whether Lord Brougham is to be completely shelved, or to be soothed by some nominal, or at least unimportant office, a short time will tell. Lord Cottenham's acceptance of office under the circumstances, would be a matter of course.—*London Correspondent of the Hants Independent.*

QUEEN VICTORIA AT OSBORNE HOUSE.—Her Majesty and the Prince are out in all weathers. Let any one conceive to himself a country squire and his lady, after a London season, once more back into the country, to their own pet place—their "turtle dovery," if you like—that they are having some alterations made in the shrubberies and grounds—that they are superintending them—that the squire, or the Prince, has a spade in his hand (not made for show but use, the same as the gardeners and labourers use), and is digging a hole in the pleasure grounds to plant a shrub in—that his lady, or the Queen, plants the shrub, and holds it while he treads it in. This may daily be seen at Osborne by all persons having business at the house; and no more notice is taken of the parties or of the children who are playing near them, than of a squire and his lady. A piece of ground is being laid out and planted, to screen the view of the stables from the house and grounds. One gentleman sent 100 curious evergreens, and quantities have been sent from Windsor, &c.; and we know instances that, where the land has not been dug deep enough, and a certain person cannot send the spade so far into the gravelly soil as it ought to go, we know he can make the pickaxe turn it up. The work being completed, the lady takes his arm, and with one child on each side, away they trudge together across the park to admire the views, or observe the progress of some improvements, like an old English squire and his lady.—*Boulogne Gazette.*

A labourer's wife attended at the Droitwich savings' bank, a few days ago, and deposited £10, which she paid in silver fourpenny pieces, amounting to 600!

THE CLERGY AND THE CORN LAWS.—In refutation of the statement of the *Times*, that the clergy took no part in the agitation for the maintenance of the present corn laws, the *Wilts Independent* gives the names of twelve incumbents, some of them high in influence, who are at this moment members of the "Protection Society" for that county.

RAILWAY NOTABILIA.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE NORWICH RAILWAY.—A fatal accident occurred on the Norwich Railway at mid-day on Wednesday. A train, consisting of an engine and tender, two luggage-waggons, and seven carriages, left Norwich for London at half-past eleven o'clock. About an hour after, when near Thetford, the engine plunged off the rails, broke away from the tender, and rolled down an embankment. The engine-driver was killed instantaneously; the stoker leaped out of the tender, and the carriages ran over him, inflicting such injuries that he died in a few hours. When the engine broke away, the tender was forced across the rails, stopping the progress of the carriages, of course with a fearful shock, the luggage-waggons being dashed to pieces; had the coupling-chain of the engine not snapped, the loss of life might have been very great, for the carriages would have been drawn over the embankment: as it was, none of the passengers were injured. One account ascribes the disaster to the great speed at which the train was proceeding—it had run a mile in fifty-seven seconds.

Herpath's Journal says:—"We have heard from two or three quarters that Sir George Hayter, who met with an accident on the railway near Penshurst, in July last, has had a compensation of £2,000 paid him by the directors."

Some idea of the immense amount of employment afforded (by railway business) to attorneys' clerks and writers, and the demand for them, may be formed from the fact that, during the last fourteen days, a provincial attorney had in his employ in London 113 writers, some of whom he had to fee very highly; and, so eagerly were they sought after, that, if he chanced to turn his back ten minutes, he was sure to find several of his clerks bribed to go elsewhere. —*Morning Chronicle*.

A NEW DODGE.—The Great Manchester, Rugby, and Southampton Railway have adopted a method of enforcing payment of deposits which is perfectly independent of all legal means. They design simply to publish as defaulters the names and addresses of all allottees who do not disburse 2s. per share before the 3rd of January.

DUCAL ENMITY TO RAILROADS.—The Duke of Buckingham appears determined to prevent those railways to which he is opposed from completing the standing orders of the House by November, 1846, as he has by November, 1845! He has still lookers-out around his estate; and a stranger cannot go into Buckingham but he is closely looked after, to see if he is a railway surveyor. A rich scene took place on Saturday. It was market day at Buckingham, and at it were many of the neighbouring farmers. Word was sent that some railway surveyors were carrying on their avocations on the Duke's estate at Hillsden, and off went the farmers from the market, as fast as they could make horseflesh carry them.

THE RECKONING DAY.—A pretty exposure was made last week, at a meeting of the "Direct London and Exeter Railway Company," of which Sir Bruce Chichester is chairman. The number of shares, it seems, was 121,000, but, on the publication of the prospectus, the number applied for was 400,000. The "provisional committee" allotted 61,000 and reserved 60,000; for the railway fever was then at its height, and there was a golden prospect of premiums to be realised. But the bubble burst. Of the 61,000 shares allotted, deposits were paid only on 23,560! Among the defaulters were 62 of the 65 "provisional directors!" The total sum collected was £32,395: the sum already expended, £31,903! For "preliminary expenses," £4,346; for advertising, £2,000 odd; for clerks' salaries, £557; for engineering and surveying, £14,050; and for law expenses, £8,791.—The "Manchester, Rugby, and Southampton Company" met the same week, and for a similar comfortable purpose. On the allotment of 134,000 shares, which should have produced upwards of £260,000, only £10,714 had been paid up, and the expenses were estimated at £17,000. Mr Giles, the engineer, had drawn £3,700, and nevertheless failed to deposit the plans! Of 75 "provisionals," only five had paid any deposit!—The "Derby and Manchester" held a meeting on the same day. The company was got up by Mr G. T. Smith, of the Stock Exchange, and Mr Brewer, an attorney; and the parties whom they induced to take the matter up, gratefully secured those two gentlemen "15,000 shares" for the good-will of the bubble!

RAILWAYS IN TURKEY.—From the Smyrna papers we learn that railways are at present the order of the day in Turkey. Of three projected lines, which should respectively connect the Turkish capital with Smyrna, Varna, and Adrianople, the relative merits are earnestly discussed.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—A scholastic monster train of thirty-two carriages, drawn by three engines, left the Brighton Station at ten o'clock, on Wednesday morning, the 17th instant, containing upwards of 400 pupils, from fourteen of the principal establishments in the town. It did not arrive at the London terminus till twenty minutes after twelve, and the whole of the luggage was not cleared at the station by half-past one, on the arrival of the next regular train. This was the heaviest passenger luggage train ever known on the line, there being not less than five luggage boxes annexed.—*Brighton Gazette*.

Sir William Somerville, Bart., M.P., on Saturday last, ascertained the amount of debt due by the poor debtors in Drogheda jail, paid it in full, and thus conferred a welcome benefit on creditor and debtor.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

The recall of Sir Robert Peel has checked the election movements of free traders and protectionists; the probability of an early dissolution of parliament being deemed less likely than it was during the interregnum: but there are still some special elections in prospect.

THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

The requisition calling upon Lord Morpeth to come forward as a candidate for the representation of the West Riding of Yorkshire, was presented to his lordship at Castle Howard, on Friday evening, by a deputation consisting of Messrs F. H. Fawkes, Charles Wood, M.P., Hamer Stansfield, and Edward Baines, jun., when he consented to be put in nomination.

The feeling in favour of his lordship throughout the riding is most decided, and far beyond what even his warmest admirers could have anticipated. As a proof of this we need only mention the fact, that within twenty-four hours the requisition to his lordship received the signatures of no less than 8,500 West Riding electors. This marked display of feeling has thrown the utmost dismay into the Conservative ranks; and even the bitterest opponents of his lordship hesitate not to predict his success, and to discourage, as altogether futile, any attempts at opposition by the Monopolist party to his return. The only rumour of opposition that has yet been current is, that the Hon. Edwin Lascelles, brother to Lord Harewood, will be brought out by the Tories. We believe, however, that by the Tories no steps whatever have been taken to contest the Riding; and we believe, also, that few of them are so short-sighted and injudicious as to venture upon a struggle which must result in inevitable mortification and defeat. The following is the address which has been issued by Lord Morpeth, and from that it will be seen that the contest, if any, must be a battle, not of party politics, but of free trade against monopoly:—

To the Electors of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

GENTLEMEN—I am deeply penetrated by the gratifying import of the invitation which has just been conveyed to me. More than one reason might have induced me not to resume a parliamentary life at present, but if the electors of the West Riding shall determine to persevere in the prompt and generous movement they have made in my favour, I cannot hesitate, in such a crisis of public affairs as the present, to put myself at their disposal. I appreciate the kindness of the suggestion for dispensing with a winter canvass, and I should feel it invidious to visit some of the polling districts and omit others. I will, therefore, present myself on the day of nomination at Wakefield, and there submit the issue to the decision of this great constituency. The inhabitants of the West Riding are already acquainted with the principles by which my public conduct, in and out of office, has been guided. I still adhere to them in all essential points; but, if I am sent to the House of Commons at the present juncture, I should deem it the main object of my mission to insist upon an immediate and final repeal of the corn laws. I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Castle Howard, Dec. 26.

MORPETH.

At the general election in 1841, the poll closed as follows:—Hon. J. S. Wortley, 13,165; Mr E. B. Denison, 12,780; Lord Milton, 12,080; Lord Morpeth, 12,031. Since that time, upwards of 2,400 voters have been enrolled by the League, and many monopolists have become Free-traders.

Mr. Gladstone's appointments will require him to vacate his seat for Newark, where it is understood that his re-election will be opposed by the Duke of Newcastle. It is confidently stated that the same Duke intends to carry his principle of "doing what he likes with his own," so far as to oppose the re-election of his son, Lord Lincoln, for South Nottinghamshire.—*Sun*.

THE REPRESENTATION OF BUCKINGHAM.—The death of Sir John Chetwode places the representation of this pocket borough at the disposal of the Duke of Buckingham, who, it is reported, intends bringing forward his son, the Marquis of Chandos, as candidate.

REPRESENTATION OF SELKIRKSHIRE.—Mr Pringle, of Whytbank, having retired from the representation of this county, in consequence of his being appointed keeper of the registry of Sasines, Mr Elliott Lockhart, of Borthwickbrae, has offered himself as a candidate for the vacancy.

REPRESENTATION OF EAST SUSSEX.—Mr Darby will vacate his seat as soon as parliament meets. It is expected that Mr Frewen will offer himself for the vacancy. Mr F. is a staunch friend of the farmer, and a staunch Protestant also. Mr John Villiers Shelley is to be the free-trade candidate.

DERBY.—So it seems the Conservatives intend to bring forward two candidates at the next general election. Thrice defeated, they are preparing for another contest, to end as disastrously to themselves as their previous efforts. Mr Thornicroft, of Wolverhampton, has, we are told, consented to open his purse-strings for the honour and glory of Conservative principles, and a son of Sir John Yarde Buller is to be his very suitable colleague.—*Derby Reporter*.

REPRESENTATION OF BRADFORD.—The requisition to Messrs Busfield and Thomson has received more than 500 signatures; and the committee is organising an effectual canvass of the whole borough.

WAKEFIELD BOROUGH ELECTION.—At the very earnest solicitation of the free trade party, backed by a most numerous signed requisition, Daniel Gaskell, Esq., of Lupset hall, has finally determined to become a candidate for the representation of Wakefield, in the event of a dissolution of the present parliament.

REPRESENTATION OF NORWICH.—It will be seen by the report, which we publish to-day, of a meeting of the Liberal electors of the seventh and eighth wards, that the steps taken by the requisitionists to Sir William Foster and Mr Peto has been sanctioned by a numerous and very influential portion of the constituency. The whole question was very deliberately discussed. The reasons for the requisition were fully and fairly stated, and the objections felt by some gentlemen were satisfactorily answered; the result was, a hearty and unanimous resolution to vote for the proposed candidate, in case Mr B. Smith adheres to his refusal to come forward again, or for Messrs Smith and Peto, if otherwise.—*Norfolk News*.

PLYMOUTH.—In this town, some of the Dissenting electors are bestirring themselves with the object of procuring suitable candidates in the event of a general election. The following has been generally circulated as a handbill:—

ELECTORS OF THE BOROUGH OF PLYMOUTH.—Present circumstances indicate strongly the near approach of a general election. In such an event you will have an opportunity of showing the sincerity of the opposition which many of you but recently made to the Maynooth grant. Remember—Lord John Russell and his party have declared themselves favourable to the payment of the Roman Catholic priesthood from the public purse. Representatives are to be found, who will not violate religious liberty, by voting away the public money for any religious endowments whatever; and who, at the same time, will fully advocate the principles of free trade. Your present members having failed to carry out the great principles of civil and religious liberty, withhold your promises of future support.

December 23rd, 1845.

FORTUNATE LOSS.—Many years ago, a lady sent her servant, a young man about 20 years of age, and a native of that part of the country where his mistress resided, to the neighbouring town, with a ring which required some alteration, to be delivered into the hands of the jeweler. The young man went the shortest way, across the fields; and, coming to a little wooden bridge that crossed a small stream, he leaned against the rail and took the ring out of its case to look at it. While doing so it slipped out of his hand and fell into the water. In vain he searched for it, even till it grew dark. He thought it fell into the hollow of a stump of a tree under water; but he could not find it. The time taken in the search was so long that he feared to return and tell his story, thinking it incredible, and that he should often be suspected of having gone into evil company and gamed it away or sold it. In this fear he determined never to return; left wages and clothes, and fairly ran away. This seemingly great misfortune was the making of him. His intermediate history I know not; but this, that after many years' absence, either in the East or West Indies, he returned with a very considerable fortune. He now wished to clear himself with his old mistress; ascertained that she was living; purchased a diamond ring of considerable value, which he determined to present in person, and clear his character by telling his tale, which the credit of his present condition might testify. He took the coach to the town of —, and thence set out to walk the distance of a few miles. He found, I should tell you, on alighting, a gentleman who resided in the neighbourhood, and who was bound for the adjacent village. They walked together; and, in conversation, this former servant, now a gentleman, with graceful manners and agreeable address, communicated the circumstance that made him leave the country abruptly many years before. As he was telling this they came to the very wooden bridge. "There," said he, "it was just here that I dropped the ring; and there is the very bit of old tree into a hole of which it fell—just there." At the same time he put down the point of his umbrella into the hole of a knot in the tree, and, drawing it up, to the astonishment of both found the very ring on the ferrule of the umbrella!—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

CURIOS.—On Friday night last, in a house in High street, Paisley, a peat that had been in the premises some months was, as usual in many houses, laid at the side of the fire to dry; next morning, when part of the peat was being broken off, the sound of a bee was heard humming most melodiously; no bee could be seen near, consequently the natural conclusion was, that the bee was inside the peat, and so it turned out to be. The peat was first minutely examined, but no crack or crevice could be seen. On being broken carefully with a hammer through the middle, there was the little songster, as lively as if basking in midsummer's sun. The little bed or tomb in which it may have been closed perhaps for ages, was little larger than its body, but as well defined as if a nut-shell had made the hollow. For a few minutes it continued to move and buzz; but, alas, poor insect, its minutes were numbered—it awoke to feel the chilly cold of December just at the moment it was dreaming of sunshine and flowers; so it ceased its untimely song, and died. The body of the bee is kept as a memento of the occurrence.—*Glasgow National*.

It is the opinion of Dr Lushington and the late Sir William Follett that there is no law to compel parishes to pay a salary to parish clerks.

SMOKING IN BED.—On Thursday night a medical student, in Norton street, was nearly burnt to death, through smoking in bed, and his lighted cigar setting fire to the curtains on his falling asleep.

THE EXPLOSION AT BOLTON.—The Coroner's inquest on the bodies of the persons who were killed by the bursting of a steam-engine boiler at Bolton, last week, has terminated in a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Mr Kitts, one of the proprietors of the mill.

SELECTIONS FROM CARLYLE'S "LETTERS AND SPEECHES OF CROMWELL."

CROMWELL ENTERING AT COLLEGE.

Curious enough, of all days, on this same day Shakespeare, as his stone monument still testifies, at Stratford-on-Avon, died—

'Obiit Anno Domini 1616,
'Etatis 53, Die 23 Apr.'

While Oliver Cromwell was entering himself of Sidney Sussex college, William Shakespeare was taking his farewell of this world. Oliver's father had, most likely, come with him; it is but twelve miles from Huntingdon; you can go and come in a day. Oliver's father saw Oliver write in the album at Cambridge: at Stratford, Shakespeare's Ann Hathaway was weeping over his bed. The first world-great thing that remains of English history, the literature of Shakespeare, was ending; the second world-great thing that remains of English history, the armed appeal of Puritanism to the invisible God of heaven against many very visible devils, on earth and elsewhere, was, so to speak, beginning. They have their exits and their entrances; and one people in its time plays many parts.

Chevalier Florian, in his "Life of Cervantes," has remarked that Shakespeare's death-day, 23rd April, 1616, was likewise that of Cervantes at Madrid. "Twenty-third of April" is, sure enough, the authentic Spanish date; but Chevalier Florian has omitted to notice that the English twenty-third is of old style. The brave Miguel died ten days before Shakespeare, and already lay buried, smoothed right nobly into his long rest. The historical student can meditate on these things.

CROMWELL'S LETTERS.

I have ventured to believe that, to certain patient earnest readers, these old dim letters of a noble Englishman might, as they have done to myself, become dimly legible again; might dimly present, better than all other evidence, the noble figure of the man himself again. Certainly there is historical instruction in these letters:—historical, and perhaps other and better. At least, it is with heroes and god-inspired men that I, for my part, would far rather converse, in what dialect soever they speak. Great, ever fruitful; profitable for reproof, for encouragement, for building up in manifold purposes and works, are the words of those that in their day were men.

These letters of Oliver will convince any man that the past did exist. By degrees the combined small twilights may produce a kind of general feeble twilight, rendering the past credible, the ghosts of the past in some glimpses of them visible. Such is the effect of contemporary letters always; and I can very confidently recommend Oliver's as good of their kind. A man intent on forcing for himself some path through that gloomy chaos called History of the Seventeenth Century, and looking face to face upon the same, may perhaps try it by this method as hopefully as by another. Here is an irregular row of beacon-fires, once all luminous as suns; and with a certain inextinguishable erubescence still, in the abysses of the dead deep night. Let us look here. In shadowy outlines, in dimmer and dimmer crowding forms, the very figure of the old dead Time itself may perhaps be faintly discernible here!

THE PURITANS TRUE AND SINCERE.

The use of the human tongue was then other than it now is. I counsel the reader to leave all that of cant, duplicity, machiavelism, and so forth, decisively lying at the threshold. He will be wise to believe that these Puritans do mean what they say, and to try unimpeded if he can discover what that is. Gradually a very stupendous phenomenon may rise on his astonished eye. A practical world, based on belief in God; such as many centuries had seen before, but as never any century since has been privileged to see. It was the last glimpse of it in our world, this of English Puritanism: very great, very glorious; tragical enough to all thinking hearts that look on it from these days of ours.

Our ancient Puritan reformers were, as all reformers that will ever much benefit this earth are always, inspired by a heavenly purpose. To see God's own law, then universally acknowledged for, complete as it stood in the holy written Book, made good in this world; to see this, or the true unwearyed aim and struggle towards this; it was a thing worth living for and dying for! Eternal justice; that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven: corollaries enough will flow from that, if that be there; if that be not there, no corollary good for much will flow. It was the general spirit of England in the seventeenth century. In other somewhat sadly disfigured form, we have seen the same immortal hope take practical shape in the French revolution, and once more astonish the world. That England should all become a church, if you like to name it so; a church presided over, not by sham-priests in "four surplices at Allhallowtide," but by true god-consecrated ones, whose hearts the Most High had touched and hallowed with his fire:—this was the prayer of many—it was the godlike hope and effort of some.

Knaves and quacks, alas, we know they abounded; but the age was heroic even because it had declared war to the death with these, and would have neither truce nor treaty with these; and went forth, flame-crowned, as with bared sword, and called the Most High to witness that it would not endure these.

CROMWELL ON THE DAY OF HIS INAUGURATION.

His Highness was in a rich but plain suit; black velvet, with cloak of the same: about his hat a broad band of gold. Does the reader see him? A rather likely figure, I think. Stands some five feet

ten or more; a man of strong solid stature, and dignified, now partly military carriage: the expression of him valour and devout intelligence—energy and delicacy on a basis of simplicity. Fifty-four years old, gone April last; brown hair and moustache are getting grey. A figure of sufficient impressiveness;—not lovely to the man-milliner species, nor pretending to be so. Massive stature; big massive head, of somewhat leonine aspect:—wart above the right eyebrow; nose of considerable blunt aquiline proportions; strict, yet copious lips, full of all tremulous sensibilities, and also, if need were, of all fierceness and rigours; deep loving eyes, call them grave, call them stern, looking from under those craggy brows, as if in lifelong sorrow, and yet not thinking it sorrow, thinking it only labour and endeavour; on the whole, a right noble lion face and hero face; and to me royal enough.

SUICIDE OF COLONEL GURWOOD.—(On Saturday last this officer, who is well known as the editor of "The Duke of Wellington's Despatches," and who has lately been residing at No. 120, King's road, Brighton, whither he had removed for the benefit of his health, committed suicide by cutting his throat. The gallant officer, it appears, has latterly been much depressed in spirits, and much excited about political affairs, and this is supposed to have led to the commission of this rash act. An inquest was held on the body, at 120, King's road, before F. H. Gell, Esq., the coroner, and a respectable jury, who returned a verdict, that the deceased committed suicide by cutting his throat while in a state of temporary insanity.

ON TRAVELING COMPANIONS.—Do not travel with a near relation. You lose at least ten days of decorum and politeness by so doing; he is intimate with you from the very beginning, and the only barrier—a weak one, it is true, and never very durable—is removed before a blow is struck. Do not choose a man much older than yourself—he has an advantage over you at the outset, which you will scarcely recover during the whole race. The week which is required to exhaust your natural and ingenuous respect for his grey hairs, will have sufficed to disembarrass him of his involuntary sense of politeness towards you; and, at the end of it, he will start free from all shackles whatsoever, while you have still the scruples of ordinary good breeding to shake off. Avoid men of mild manners, and slow speech—they are invariably obstinate; and, as they never lose their presence of mind, they are more likely than most persons to attain to the last and loftiest division of the class which we have just been discussing. A bachelor is generally to be shunned; it is so completely the habit and practice of his life to study and to gratify his own tastes, that he has attained to a degree of proficiency, and acquired a quantity of information which it is not likely that you should possess at first starting. You may yield a number of points without being aware of what you are really giving up; and when you gradually awaken to the position in which you have been suffering him to place you, you will have so much lost ground to recover before you are on equal terms. We were once of opinion, that it was desirable to select a married man of some years' standing; because, being in the habit of constant submission—whether voluntary, enforced, or unconscious—at home, he was likely to be docile and manageable by instinct. But it has been suggested to us by high authority, that the same principle of human nature which converts the fag into the tyrant, and the enslaved serf into the revolutionary despot, will assert itself in him, and impart an eagerness and a virulence to his strife for the mastery, a spiteful fanaticism to his worship of self, which it would be extremely difficult to resist. On the whole, therefore, in spite of what has been said above, we would rather recommend you to choose a bachelor; but to be on your guard against him from the very first. And the best mode of enabling your ignorance to contend successfully against his experience, will be, to yield no point whatever, trifling as it may perhaps appear, lest it should involve consequences which you do not perceive.—From an amusing but well-pointed article on the subject, "How to Choose a Traveling Companion," in No. II. of *Sharpe's London Magazine*.

REMARKABLE FEMALE SELF-DENIAL.—The *Echo de l'Oise* states, that a family consisting of three persons, husband, wife, and daughter, holding the mill of Fretov, near Beauvais, never speak a word to each other. This tenacity not to use the faculty of speech is said to have been imposed on them by a village conjuror, who persuaded them that by keeping silence they would eventually find a treasure, and that their machinery would hold firm. This complete interdiction from speech, however, became so disagreeable to the mother and daughter, that the man of art permitted them, as a favour, to speak when outside the bounds of the department of the Oise. Gournay being the nearest place in the neighbouring department, they proceeded there every Tuesday, the market day, and talk away to their hearts' content.

Postscript.

Wednesday, December 31st.

LOSS OF A FRENCH WAR STEAMER.—We regret to learn, that the Papin war steamer has been lost on the coast of Mogador. Out of 150 passengers on board, only seventy-six were saved.—*Galignani's Messenger*.

Her Majesty has fixed Saturday next to receive the Corporation address, at Windsor. It is an untoward day, as the common councilmen are not full

fledged corporators till they have been sworn in on Plough Monday.

Parliament was yesterday formally prorogued, with the usual ceremonies, to the 22nd of January, then to meet for the despatch of business.—*Globe*.

THE CONVICTS UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH.—It has at length been finally arranged that the execution of the two unhappy criminals, Martha Brown and Samuel Quennell, who were convicted of murder at the last session of the Central Criminal court, shall take place on Monday next; the former at the usual spot in front of the gaol of Newgate, and the latter on the top of the Surrey county gaol at Horsemonger lane. Within the last few days a petition has been sent to the Home Secretary by the relations of Quennell, praying for a commutation of the sentence on account of the state of his mind, but as there did not seem to be any evidence or facts to warrant the conclusion that his mind was affected, an answer was returned from the Home-office, stating that the case was of a character as would not warrant any interference on the part of the authorities with the sentence of the law, and that it must, therefore, take its course.

PROTECTIONIST MEETINGS still continue to be held in various parts of the country. On Saturday there was a meeting of the Berkshire Association, at Reading; and on Monday, of the Sussex Society, at Lewes. At these meetings Mr Allnutt, Mr Palmer, M.P., Lord Barrington, M.P., and Mr Ellman, delivered long addresses, the burden of which was, that it would be a breach of faith on the part of Sir R. Peel to abrogate, or even alter, the present corn laws.

Out of the total number of sailors by whom the United States navy is manned, 6,100, not above 960 are native-born Americans; with the exception of a few Swedes and Hanseatics, all the rest are Englishmen.

THE LATE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT THETFORD.—The adjourned inquest, relative to the death of William Pickering, engine-driver, and Thomas Hedger, fireman, both of whom perished by the recent accident on the Norfolk railway, was resumed yesterday morning at ten o'clock, at the Guildhall, Thetford, and the examination of witnesses was continued until five o'clock, when it was again adjourned. General Pasley will, it is understood, institute an official investigation into the cause of the accident.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The weekly meeting of the above body, on Monday, was well attended. Indeed, it may be observed that, as the severity of the weather increases, the numbers within the walls of Conciliation-hall are augmented in direct proportion, oftentimes at the expense of their enthusiasm. A great portion of the day was occupied by Mr O'Connell, in a laboured attempt to prove that the charges of the *Times* commissioner against him were false, and that he himself was a paragon landlord; but it fell cold and dead on the ears of his audience. The cheers were few and far between, unless when the hon. member concentrated his energy to utter the familiar words, "liar," "vagabond," &c., in reference to that gentleman and his companion, which acted with their wonted effect on the sympathetic nerves of his hearers. His defence was all twisting, and twining, and wriggling, for not one syllable did he venture to speak in refutation of any statement made in the *Times*, as will be seen by the subjoined report. His reply to "You have wretched tenants" was, "I have made roads to their houses;" and his only denial of "The cottages on Derrynane, Tarmons, Kilconan, &c., are as bad as the hovels of savages," was, "There are better houses, which you did not see, at another place, and you are a liar and a vagabond." The meeting seemed to regard it as a very stupid affair, and heard it with much apathy until the claptrap peroration excited their feelings in favour of "loud talk," and appeals to Heaven and fatherland. Rent, £237.—*Times' Reporter*.

TORY REPEALERS.—Mr Bourke, of Hayes, the nephew and the heir of the earl of Mayo, and former Tory candidate for Kildare, has issued an address to the electors of that county, in which he advocates some of the principal claims put forward by Mr O'Connell for a modification of the act of legislative union. The recent proceedings of the Peel cabinet appear to have produced this extraordinary change in the political creed of Mr Bourke.

FRANCE.—The proceedings of the Chamber of Deputies commenced on Monday, but they were, for the most part, preliminary. M. Sauzet, the ministerial candidate, was chosen president by a majority of sixty-six over M. Dufaure, the opposition candidate, and thirty votes over the absolute majority. The secretaries to the different committees were then appointed. Abd-el-Kader is still at large, and would not be captured to furnish a boasting paragraph for the King's speech, as was hoped. Bow-Maza, his lieutenant, almost as celebrated an Arab leader as himself, is still alive, although reported to have been murdered. The Ambassador from Morocco arrived in Paris on Saturday, and, on Sunday, paid a visit to M. Guizot, at the Foreign office, accompanied by the principal persons in his suite.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English ..	480	400	20			
Scotch....						
Irish			1240			
Foreign ..	680	470	3290			

Prices firm.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
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* * Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Q. Q. Q." A candidate, perhaps—but no funds.

TO OUR READERS.

With the present year the *NONCONFORMIST* will close its fifth volume, and complete its first series.

On Wednesday, January 7, 1846, will be presented to the public the first number of a new series—enlarged, remodelled, and, it is confidently trusted, greatly improved.

The principles of the *NONCONFORMIST* will remain, of course, unchanged. It will contend as earnestly as ever for justice as the basis of our political institutions, unrestricted liberty as the soul of commerce, and entire independence of magisterial support and control as essential to the purity and extension of the Christian church.

The spirit in which these great objects will be pursued, will be the same as before—a high appreciation of the ends at which it aims, and an earnest desire to compass them by peaceful and legitimate means. The pervading tone, however, of the paper, it is proposed to modify. The *NONCONFORMIST* has established its character both for integrity and for power—and the circumstances under which this has been accomplished, imposed upon it the necessity of taking an antagonistic attitude. It has had to do battle for its present position of strength—but that position having been made good, it can henceforth wield gentleness with effect. Recognised as having a right to speak, and a claim to be listened to, it will speak in the accents of faithful friendship.

The new series will be distinguished by a greater VARIETY of literary talent. Arrangements are in progress for securing valuable assistance from several able hands, and the superiority of the *NONCONFORMIST* will, it is hoped, be enhanced, by making its editorial articles the reflection of more than one mind, and its correspondence from abroad, direct, frequent, and instructive.

The news department of the paper will be entirely remodelled. It is determined to make it AN INTERESTING FAMILY JOURNAL, as well as an influential organ for the diffusion of sound political and ecclesiastical views. Ampler space for this will be commanded, without enlarging our sheet, by slightly widening and lengthening each column, and by a somewhat more economical distribution of type. By this arrangement, it is calculated, about two pages will be gained.

Solidity and strength have been, hitherto, the characteristic features of the *NONCONFORMIST* newspaper. Without impairing these, it will, in the forthcoming series, combine with them ornament and grace. Its mission is to all classes—and for all classes it will seek to provide entertainment as well as instruction.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31, 1845.

SUMMARY.

HEALTH and peace to our readers, each and all! 'Tis the last time we shall have the opportunity of greeting them in the year 1845. We do so now with heartiest good-will; and, in closing the last volume of the first series of the *Nonconformist*, we may be allowed to express our hope, that what we have hitherto written has done its part towards the promotion of right mindedness, of truthful bearing, and of generous sympathy with all just principles. This, at least, has been our aim. We put in no claim for infallibility—we have spoken as we thought, in words that might be understood, upon the numerous topics, political and ecclesiastical, which the lapse of five years has brought under our notice. Wherein we have erred, we have erred unwittingly—wherein we have succeeded, we have succeeded only by the power of honesty. We have seen many changes—we have struggled with arduous difficulties—we have borne our reproach, and are still willing to bear it. Of the future, however, it will be our duty to speak next week. The day naturally directs our thoughts to the past. Courteous readers, let us close this our fifth volume

in peace. Such as we have been able, we have done for the cause of truth. Accept it as a pledge of future exertions. Accept, also, our thanks for every encouragement, and for all the support, which your abiding favour has ministered to us.

The week, viewed in comparison with the few which preceded it, has not been a stirring one. Sir R. Peel has received back into office most of his former colleagues, and silence shrouds their counsels from all public observation. There have been some slight changes, but none which can be deemed to affect the character of the administration. Mr Gladstone succeeds Lord Stanley in the Colonial office—the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Wharnclyffe as president of the Council; Lord Ellenborough enters the cabinet as first lord of the Admiralty; and Lord Haddington takes the privy seal, resigned by the Duke of Buccleuch. In these movements we catch not a glimpse of the intended policy of government. What Sir R. Peel will win over his colleagues to do in relation to the repeal of the corn laws—what he himself, after a sudden resignation, and a still more unexpected return to office, will be inclined to propose—will, we imagine, remain a mystery, at least to us of the outer court, until the meeting of parliament. Compromise of some sort the nature of the man would lead us to expect; and yet, on the other hand, none can be more alive than he to the fact, that the day for compromise is gone by for ever. America must be pacified—approaching famine must be met and stayed—some lingering respect for aristocracy must be secured—and the common sense of a practical nation must be consulted, in whatever Free-trade measure he may concoct. All these conditions combine to render compromise impracticable. The aristocracy are, at last, hemmed into a corner. Escape is impossible. Their wisest course will be graceful submission. To some of them, we are aware, this will be ruin, but the Prime Minister had better sacrifice some than all—at least, with his views of the worth of aristocracy. We doubt not his understanding, but we question his moral courage. Peel, we apprehend, will not be found the man for the times.

Meetings are somewhat less frequent than they were, but those which have been held in favour of the League have produced not a little sensation. Manchester has opened the new League fund, and upwards of £60,000 were subscribed in a few hours. Money is representative of power—money is power. Whatever becomes of the enormous fund thus created, the mere fact of its creation will beget an influence stronger than an exhausted landocracy can bring into the field. Mr Cobden says that, within three years, should the question at issue remain unsettled, he will displace one hundred county members from their seats. The promise is a large one, and one which, perhaps, must be taken with some latitude of interpretation. We confess we have no wish to see it submitted to the test of experience. With the Corn laws will fall the greater portion of the political influence of landlordism. The proprietors and cultivators of the soil, deprived of their monopoly, will probably avenge themselves by assailing every monopoly that remains. We may yet live to see the Dukes of Buckingham, Norfolk, and Richmond amongst the extreme radicals of the day. There is nothing like poverty to teach men what is due by the rich to the poor—nothing like weakness to sharpen men's sense of natural justice.

At present the protectionists show fight. They have not, indeed, a quarter of a million fund, nor have they proposed to create one; but they meet and resuscitate their drooping spirits by the cry of "No surrender." They remind us much of Bunyan's two giants, Pope and Pagan. They are rather crazy in their joints, and unable now to do the grim deeds which once distinguished them. But they can grin defiance at every passenger, and show that, if their power is weakened, their will remains unchanged. Go your ways, ill-favoured monopoly! Go, find out some hole, in which you may decently die! These antics ill-beseem your former pride. It were better—far better—to meet your fate, as Turks meet death, in silent resignation.

Of the West Riding election there is no great deal to report. A requisition, signed by about 8,000 names, has been forwarded to Lord Morpeth, who, on this occasion, will probably come in without a contest. His lordship's adherence to the League will satisfy Free-traders. There is another class, however, who have a duty to perform, with whom personal courtesy towards the noble candidate ought not to be permitted to weigh. We mean the Dissenters. We think it becomes them to avail themselves of this opportunity to inquire his lordship's views upon the subject of church endowments. In the Maynooth affair, it is well known, he had no hand. As a member of the Whig government, had that government been permanently constructed, he must have taken a prominent part in settling the policy to be pursued towards Ireland. In any case, his movements and votes, in reference to the endowment question, will have great weight. We know not, therefore, how the Dissenters of the West Riding can discharge their duty to their own

principles, without eliciting from his lordship some distinct assurances on this head. We trust they will see the matter in the same light, and will take care that, whatever may happen, they, at all events, may be absolved from even the appearance of conniving at a wrong, against which they but lately vehemently protested.

Foreign tidings possess some interest. From America we learn nothing which indicates the intention of Congress to give way on the Oregon question, although opinion seems to point to an amicable settlement of the affair. India is still on the *qui vive* respecting the Punjab, and collision between the British forces and the Sikh soldiery is represented as all but inevitable. The most gratifying news comes from France. The King's speech, at the opening of the Chambers, breathes a kindly spirit towards this country, and leads to the hope, that the only rivalry which shall hereafter subsist between England and France, will be the peaceful rivalry of commerce, social progress, and political improvement.

THE YEAR 1845.

THE sun is just about to set upon the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and forty-five. Within a few hours, he will be gathered to his fathers, and his name will be inscribed on the tablet of history. He is passing from our midst, as all years must do. What he has been, he has been—there is now no room for change. His deeds are done—his character is stamped—his destiny is fulfilled. All that can be said about him, whether of good or evil, may be said now. Ere new life, phoenix-like, springs out of the ashes of death—ere the successor to the expiring year is ushered into being, let us do justice to him whose eyelids will this evening shut, to be opened no more for ever; and, re-calling the acts of 1845, endeavour to read the moral of his history.

It were easy, as it would be profitless, to give a concise summary of the political and ecclesiastical events of the last twelvemonth. This, however, is not our purpose. A mere string of facts, like a string of beads, will be unmeaning save in the hands of a devotee. History is little better than a dull story book, to those who never look beneath its surface. In reality, it is the gradual unfolding of the Infinite Mind. Time is the blank paper, and events the press-work, by means of which the universal Ruler exhibits the secrets of his administration. The world of mankind is the printed book, in which the enlightened may reverently read what the Supreme is doing in our midst. And as, in the study of the compositions of men, he who sees most clearly the one purpose which moved the author to undertake his work, will discern also most distinctly the subtle relation of part to part, chapter to chapter, and paragraph to paragraph, so they who apprehend the one design of God, or who have got even but a distant glimpse of it, will see events grouped, in their dependence one upon another, into animated illustrations of distinct ideas, and these several groups again, combined with the skill of a master hand, making up a sublime picture, the original conception of which is marked by all the unity, the wisdom, the justice, and the benevolence of Him who is "wonderful in working."

Assuming, then, the central design of Providential administration to be, the ultimate and universal reign of truth, and peace, and justice, we take the year 1845 to be the opening chapter of a new epoch in the world's history. There would appear to us to be an incipient change in the dynamics of civil government. The law of force is yielding place to the law of opinion. Mind is getting the advantage of matter. Society is bursting its swaddling bands, and bids fair, ere long, to run alone. We have been governed hitherto by prescription, upheld by physical force. The "must be" which has mastered us, has derived its main strength from the laws of the material world. The ten men, armed with loaded pistols, have kept in subjection the ten thousand undisciplined and unarmed. The brute force in the hands of the aristocracy has settled everything. Opinion, it is true, has sometimes frightened it into negotiation, and wrung from it terms which it sorely disliked. But opinion has never yet become the paramount power. The statute book of Great Britain is the embodiment, not of what is right, but of what is strong. The cabinets of Great Britain have represented, not a nation's will, but a nation's keeper. And if, at times, strength has been unnerved by fear, and the gaoler, apprehensive of mischief, has relaxed his severities, it is not the less true that, until now, the mind of the people has been kept in bonds, and that physical force has given law to intelligence, wisdom, and worth.

This state of things, we think, is passing away. The year 1845 has conducted Opinion to the very steps of her regal throne. She is not yet seated in supremacy, but is looking around upon all gain-sayers with that calm defiance which says, "I will be." And this we take to be the purport of the year's events. They set forth, in vivid colours, and upon a well-filled canvas, Opinion preparing to displace Force from the chair of state. The facts

of the year are but the figures of this picture. Look at them narrowly, and you will find them all lending significance to this design. The political lull in January last—the unexpected reform of the Tariff—the attempt to govern Ireland by priests instead of soldiers—the growth of the railway power—the increasing popularity of the newspaper press—the cry for free trade made piercing now by the appearance of famine—the falling to pieces of the “compact majority”—the sudden dissolution of the Conservative Cabinet—the impracticability of constructing a Whiggovernment—the prevailing aversion from war, and the necessity imposed upon our statesmen to avoid it—the disrepute into which aristocracy is falling—the disorganisation of parties, both political and ecclesiastical—all shadow forth the commencement of a new order of things. These are the introductory movements of Opinion—the gathering of her mantle around her, ere yet she ascends the throne which she must fill until Truth comes to claim it for herself. Government is seen, in all these events, passing from the animal to the intellectual, as it will one day pass from the intellectual to the spiritual. The nation is verging close upon the end of its pupillage, and begins already to assert the superiority of self-rule over the rule of the pedagogue and the birch.

As initiating us, then, into a new order of things we look back upon 1845 with peculiar interest. The reign of opinion will be a sort of intermediate state towards the reign of truth and justice. It will not be all that the good will sigh for, but it will be a decided step towards it. To have done with the exaltation of brute force—which all aristocracies presuppose—will be a sensible relief—nor will it be a relief only—it will minister a potent stimulus to intellectual agitation of every kind. Whilst differences could be settled only by the sword, differences were sure to lie suppressed. When opinion rules the empire, education, inquiry, and discussion will be the chief weapons of political warfare. We have, indeed, no implicit faith in any form of government, simply as such. But there are some forms peculiarly unfriendly to the development of the active virtues. Amongst these, a feudal aristocracy is pre-eminent. Prescription is its sceptre—a servile, but highly-disciplined executive force, its staff—dogmatism, backed by animal power, constitutes what may be called the spirit of its rule. Under it, reason, justice, and religion, count for nothing—are treated as menials fit only to subserve its groveling ambition. But the end of this bitter humiliation is approaching—and in bringing it forward to its close, no year yet numbered with the past, will be found, we are persuaded, to have contributed more largely, than eighteen hundred and forty-five.

THE OREGON QUESTION.

CONSIDERABLE anxiety is directed towards this question in consequence of the message of the President of the United States, though the sting has been taken out of the feeling of solicitude by the favourable turn which events on this side of the water have taken.

When disputes arise between two individuals or families, the probability of a peaceful conclusion is mainly dependent upon two things—the dispersion of *good sense* among the different parties to the quarrel, and the dispersion of a *feeling of interest* in the settlement.

On this side of the water two great steps towards a favourable conclusion have been made—the escape from a war ministry, who would have done everything to exasperate, and the holding out the prospect of a vast increase to the common interest in peace, through the liberation of trade.

On the other side of the Atlantic the steps seem rather to have been of the contrary kind. But on the principle that all human affairs proceed by oscillations, it is common sense to wait for what may come next. The President's assertion of the inadmissibility of European interference on the continent of America, is based on a dishonest fallacy, and probably intended to irritate. It is founded on the assumption that European nations have no honest connexions on the American continent, and to please the speaker, *shall* have none. It is a hardened assumption, like those which have been thrown out on repudiation and other subjects. It has this inherent weakness, that there are two to play at that game, both in Europe and America. Reduced to simple terms, the declaration amounts to this, that the United States intend to conquer the South American republics for the purpose of establishing slavery there, as fast as shall be convenient. And as would be done by housebreakers everywhere else if they thought they should profit by it, they add a protest against anybody's interfering. They absolutely repudiate, and upon high moral and patriotic grounds oppose and repel the supposition, that anybody shall think of interfering. The end of which will simply depend upon whether anybody feels substantially interested in interfering or not. If they do, they will; and the bluster will turn against the thieves.

At the same time, it is an irremediable fact, that

Great Britain has given up her right of interfering upon this point—at all events at the time when interference would have been most effectual. And a remarkable coincidence it is, that this abandonment should have been made by the individual minister whose absence from influence on the present occasion is matter of so much satisfaction to the civilized world in general. There was no doubt that between Great Britain and the newly-formed South American republics, there existed what the Romans would have called a *clientela*—a claim for support arising out of previous assistance, perfectly sufficient to have enabled Great Britain to put down the intended dishonesty, by the same process as a respectable citizen explodes the design of a thievish imp upon his neighbour's pocket, by a simple “Aha! I see you.” But this might not be. The government of the day exhibited a connivance amounting to encouragement, and nothing could be got from it by remonstrance, but an assurance in nursery phrase, that “Brother Jonathan could never think of being so naughty.” The condition of human existence is, that what is not done at the proper time shall not be done after it. If nations will have no governments, or none that they effectively look after, they must take the consequences as portion of their choice. The opportunity of resisting the extension of slavery over the South American republics, is with the twenty millions given to the slaveholders in the West Indies. It cannot be fought about now; we cannot go to war with Mr Polk in his mature age, because nine years ago Lord Palmerston would not let a sloop of war ask Mr Polk or his fellows, under what flag, or whether under any flag, they were hurrying to the invasion of our friendly territory of Mexico. Vastly more agreeable it was found to be, to massacre the allies and friends of Englishmen in Syria. But all this avails nothing now, except to create additional thankfulness for the escape lately experienced. Both in America and England, the governments are what the good sense of the nation must control if it can. The Americans are not popular in England; and those who attempt to tell them they are, put forth a clap-net, of which the feebleness is felt. They were popular a dozen years ago; but repudiation, slavery, and Texas have done their work. No true thing ever comes out of what is intrinsically false; nothing could, consequently, be done towards the preservation of peace, by holding up the popularity of America or Americans here, as something on which to count. The strongest ground of hope is, that overwhelming interests on both sides will smother the consequences of past misconduct everywhere. A ministry in England has just expired unborn, principally, as it turns out, through the anxiety felt in England to scatter the men who delight in war. In fact, the evidences of movement on the English side are manifold and great; they only want therefore to be met upon the other to be effective. We have muzzled our fools—let the Americans muzzle theirs.

WILLIAM KNIBB.

In our last number it was our painful duty to record the death of the late William Knibb, one of the greatest and most efficient missionaries of modern times. But he deserves at our hands a more elaborate notice. Our departed friend was a man of rare endowments, combining in himself those qualities which admirably fitted him to fulfil that short but brilliant course which Providence has destined him to run. He is not to be classed among men of the highest order of mind, who attract the attention and fix the admiration of the world by the comprehensiveness of their powers, the splendour of their genius, or the originality of their gait. Such minds do but occasionally light among us, and, whenever they appear, rather awaken our wonder, than stimulate us to imitation. But, though making no pretensions to the grander attributes which sometimes distinguish the human mind, he was eminently gifted with those faculties which render their possessor adapted to the most important and effective duties of life. To a clear and sound understanding he added a singular quickness of perception. What was deficient in range and power was compensated by the sprightliness and activity of his intellect. Unaccustomed to the severe abstractions of thought, he easily seized on any practical subject which presented itself before him, read its merits by an intuitive glance, and, having once formed his opinion respecting it, seldom had occasion to reverse his decision. Set him down amidst whole heaps of documentary evidence, or surround his mind by the most complicated tissue of statistical facts, he would unravel and illumine the whole, and evince an acumen and an analytical skill which would have secured him an honourable place in the council chamber or at the bar. The cast of his mind obviously suited him more to the engagements and obligations of public life, than to philosophic seclusion and research. But the greatness of William Knibb consisted rather in the qualities of his heart than in the attributes of his mind. The secret of his might lay more in the moral elements which composed his character than in

the colossal framework of his intellect. There was a simplicity and transparency about him which invested him with a peculiar charm, the more so, perhaps, on account of its rarity. He had nothing to conceal, no sinister ends and sidelong views. His words and his actions were the sure index to his inmost thoughts. You seemed to see the motives and springs which moved within him, through the medium of his outward demeanour. This singleness of mind, this utter absence of all duplicity, laid the basis for that fine character which he exemplified and sustained. He was totally free from that boisterousness and bluster, the offspring of an innate vulgarity and impudence, which constitute the most prominent features in some public men. In their place he possessed that spirit of dauntless and indomitable courage which is usually the associate of the more retiring virtues. He had no love of publicity for its own sake, and no base thirst for popularity, but was naturally diffident and modest. Knowing how to value the esteem of the great and of the good, he nevertheless set little value on the fleeting breath of popular applause, while he shrunk from the fawning accents of the sycophantish admirer as from a noisome pestilence. With an ardour that nothing could quench, this excellent man combined the self-discipline which could control it, and the wisdom which could direct it. He was not, in the common and conventional acceptance of that term, a prudent man, and it is well for society that this did not constitute the summit of his boast and of his fame. Prudence, if indeed it deserve a place among the virtues at all, is a little feeble grace, a light and trifling ornament with which men of the loftiest excellency can afford to dispense. It is often seen allied with cunning, self-interest, and covert design. It is most eloquently eulogised by the cold, the timid, and the calculating—by men who are always thinking about the consequences, rather than the rectitude of their behaviour. Wisdom, an excellence of far statelier growth and diviner mien—the handmaid of reflection, and the companion of integrity—embraces within itself all that is worthy in prudence, as the greater includes the less. To this higher qualification, then, William Knibb possessed pre-eminent claims; and under its guidance he placed those glorious passions which, like a sleeping lion, reposed within his breast, ever ready to obey the summons of some great animating event. A beautiful feature in his character was his genial love of truth, his warm affection for whatever was essentially right and good. Truth was to him a substantial existence, a real and glorious thing, which enchained his judgment and led captive his heart. He was enamoured with it for its own sake, and saw reflected from its face the immutable perfections of God. He followed it, through all its fortunes, walked in its light in the day of its prosperity, and fought by its side in the hour of its adversity. His admiration of it was not that of poet, or the delighter in romance; it was not with him the mere creation of idealism or taste—for imagination entered in a very slight degree into the constitution of his mind—it was a sound and solid appreciation of its intrinsic beauty and unalterable claims; and at its shrine his reason, as well as his feelings, paid its profoundest homage. With this enlightened attachment to the interests of truth, he blended the gentlest and the kindest feelings towards the advocates of error. Though susceptible to anger (and that man is to be avoided who is not), there was no rancour in his nature: bigotry, malice, and envy, had no home in his breast; and while he would oppose error with unfaltering accents, by whomsoever maintained, and wherever wantonly and tenaciously vindicated, would visit it with the lightning of his indignant spirit, he would leave his opponent, having exorcised his error, unscathed by the consuming fire. He would wipe the tear of sorrow from the humblest and most undeserving eye, and breathe a generous emotion towards the most hostile and inveterate foe.

A creature of such a structure, then, formed an appropriate and suitable temple for the divine sentiment of religion. His uprightness, his nobility, and his benevolence, were congenial with its own nature, and formed the *media* through which its heavenly features might placidly and radiantly shine. Hence the piety of Mr Knibb was unsophisticated and pure—no one who knew him would doubt its reality, though there was not the slightest effort to render it apparent. Though cheerful, and susceptible to a high degree of the social pleasures, and disdaining those affected airs by which some men depict the greater part of their religion in their face, he was eminently devout, and emphatically the man of prayer. He appeared to those who knew him best to cultivate much communion with God, and to be richly imbued with the spirit of his divine Master. The Scriptures were his daily guide, the source of his consolation, and the foundation of his unwavering hopes; and, whether in his more private intercourse or in his public ministrations, he evinced his strong and vital attachment to those great evangelical doctrines which they so unequivocally teach. It is obvious, then, that a man so endowed in a mental,

a moral, and a spiritual point of view, could not appear on the great arena of life, called forth by momentous and stirring events, without occupying a conspicuous position, and drawing towards himself the gaze and scrutiny of the world. Mr. Knibb might have been known exclusively in his character as a missionary of Christ and as a Christian teacher, but for the circumstances which were cast up, in the history of the population amidst which he laboured. Crushed beneath the ignominy of the bondage of ages, the time of their deliverance was at hand; and, in the providence of God, their deliverer, like another Moses, had been unwittingly conducted to the scene. With his noble compeers, he showed himself able and ready for the task; and with an energy, a valour, and a disinterestedness, unequalled in modern times, he advanced manfully to the field. Without any pretensions to a high or finished education, he was gifted with a ready and commanding elocution; and, rising superior to art, with its advantages or inconveniences, he threw himself upon the resources of nature, and entitled himself, without aiming at any such end, to be ranked among the most popular orators of any times. Fired with a deathless love of liberty, and filled with a holy hatred of oppression, he treated with the scorn they deserved all attempts that were made to balk him in the advocacy of the negro's rights. In his estimation, a crisis in their history had arrived, at which some champion must stand forth in their defence; and, by the due improvement of which, the sons of Africa might be rescued from their degradation and their bonds. Throughout the cities and towns of this great empire he told the story of their wrongs, denounced, in burning accents, the guilt and infamy of their oppressors, and called upon the British people to visit colonial slavery with the thunder of their displeasure. To see him rising in large assemblies, as the writer often has, and entering on his chosen task, till, kindled into enthusiasm by the divine nature of his mission, he took possession of every breast—till the contagion of his resistless eloquence seized hold of the young and of the old—of the rude and of the refined—and till the timid and the prudent men, who would have checked him in his glorious career, were compelled to follow, as by a magnetic charm, in his train, and to admire a moral heroism, which they had not the courage to applaud, was to receive the only suitable impression of his powers, and to be assured beforehand of the inevitable triumph of his cause. But, alas! the simple-minded Christian, the affectionate pastor, the impassioned orator, and the great philanthropist is no more. His days were few, but eventful; and his public course hastily, though most gloriously, run. Life with him was a brilliant flame, which glowed with an intensity of heat, prophetic of its limited duration. Still, he accomplished more during his too short sojourn among us, than men of the ordinary cast generally effect throughout the course of the longest life. All honour to his memory, whose history has furnished another illustration of the fact, that great and beneficent changes in the destinies of communities, and in the policy of nations, are oftener to be ascribed to the invincible determination and manly prowess of some master mind, than to the councils of committees, or to the deliberations of sages. Be it ours to catch the light of his splendid example, and to tread in his firm and unyielding footsteps, and openly to protest at all times and in all places, heedless of the cry of politic and pusillanimous minds, against every infraction on the liberties of men.

IDOLATRY IN INDIA.—A quarterly general court of proprietors of East India stock was held on Wednesday, Sir Henry Wilcock, the chairman, in the chair. Mr Poynder gave notice of the following motion for the next court:—

"That, adverting to the charge of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta on his recent departure from Bengal, and now reprinted in England, and also to the printed statements of the Rev. James Peggs, late a missionary in Orissa, it be referred to the Honourable Court of Directors, to consider whether the time is not arrived when such rites and usages as contradict the law of nature, and overthrow the first principles of our common humanity, may not be terminated consistently with the amelioration of the natives, and the security of the Indian empire."

THE COURT.—Her Majesty and Prince Albert, accompanied by the royal family, will take their departure from the Castle for Buckingham palace, according to present arrangement, on Tuesday, the 20th of next month, two days before the meeting of parliament, which will not be opened by her Majesty in person.

THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND.—The health of this nobleman has for some time been such as to excite very serious apprehensions among his friends. The complaint under which his Grace labours is understood to be what is professionally called *ramollissement* of the brain—one of the most intractable to medical skill of all the ills that flesh is heir to.

THE POLAR EXPEDITION.—Accounts of the Polar expedition under Sir John Franklin, up to the 16th August, have been received by the Admiralty. It was on the North coast of Greenland, above Gilbert's Sound; and would probably winter near that spot, or at the Arctic Islands, the wintering-place of Parry.

THE OREGON QUESTION.

(From the Philadelphia Correspondent of the Morning Chronicle.)

Sufficient time has now elapsed to afford an extensive consideration of the message of President Polk to Congress, and also to develop public sentiment in relation to its contents. The great and all-absorbing topic, one which throws all others comparatively into the shade, is the Oregon. Go where you will, in the street, in the news-rooms, in private society—the Oregon! the Oregon! and the probability of war, are alike the themes of public and private discussion.

By all parties the President's message is considered a warlike document; and as all negotiation has been abruptly broken off—perhaps for the present only, and perhaps for ever—most persons look with anxiety, and many with alarm, to the future.

It appears from the Message and the state documents on the Oregon question that have since been published, that England has for years given an implied, if not a positive acquiescence in the claim of the United States to all of Oregon south of the Columbia river, which is in lat. 46 degs. And it also appears that the United States, by four successive offers, has been willing to acquiesce in the possession by England of all the Oregon north of 49 degs., thus narrowing the question down (a few free ports and privileges on each side excepted) to three degrees of latitude, or 180 geographical miles of coast on the Pacific. But Mr. Polk, in making the fourth offer of 49 degrees, did not include the free navigation of the Columbia river mutually to both countries, and therefore Mr. Pakenham rejected the offer, informed Mr. Buchanan that he expected a further offer, and that too in terms that were by many considered as rude and uncourteous. Whereupon the President, in his message, informs Congress and the people that he withdrew his proposition of 49 degrees as a boundary; that he considered the demands of the British government as "extraordinary and wholly inadmissible." That the course of that government afforded "satisfactory evidence that no compromise, we ought to accept, can be effected;" and then urges the United States claim to the whole of the Oregon territory, from the Mexican boundary, in lat. 42 degs. to the Russian frontier in 54 degs. 40 min., thus excluding England entirely from the Pacific. He further recommends that the year's notice required by treaty be given to England, to put an end to the joint occupation, and hints that at the end of that period measures must be taken to maintain the American claim. With regard to this hint there can be no mistake. It means war, unless England will give up the entire possession. In the meantime, he recommends that American laws should be extended over American citizens in Oregon, forts and military stations built from Missouri to the Rocky Mountains for the protection of emigrants from Indians, &c.

Now what is popular opinion here with regard to this state of affairs? It is told in a few words.

Both Whigs and Democrats, and even most of the English here, concur in blaming Mr. Pakenham for rejecting so uncourteously the offer of the 49th parallel, at least without submitting it first to his government, for he must have known that better terms never would be offered by the United States; indeed, most persons were surprised that Mr. Polk had ever offered so much, though, had it been agreed to, all but a few minor details perhaps on either side, it certainly would have been ratified.

With regard to the message, all its points are supported warmly by the Democracy, except that some of the southern democratic members of Congress, with Mr. Calhoun at their head, favour the policy of leaving the matter to a "wise and masterly inactivity," contending that at no very remote future time it would naturally come into this confederacy, from the overwhelming majority of American citizens that would settle in the territory. The Whigs are opposed to the extreme policy of Mr. Polk, and would have been well contented with 49 degrees as a boundary, with the exception of a few minor give-and-take advantages, by way of make-weights, on either side. But from the Whigs, as a body, must be excepted a few members from the west, who go for the "whole of Oregon." Remember—the Democrats form the great majority of the Union. The majority will decide the question, and those who oppose the decision will be regarded as lying under the brand of incivism.

Several Washington letter-writers say that Mr John Quincy Adams, a leading Whig and statesman of New England, will go for every inch of Oregon up to the Russian frontier, unless England abandons all designs upon California.

Another, and an external, element has been brought to bear strongly upon this question, namely, a petition from American citizens in Oregon, praying that the territory might be taken under the United States laws, &c. This petition has been read in the House and Senate, and ordered to be printed. It is timed just now as appropriate for the stimulation of the action of Congress; but, be that as it may, it will produce an effect.

The whole of the correspondence has now been published between Mr Calhoun and Mr Pakenham, and between Mr Buchanan and Mr Pakenham, in relation to the Oregon negotiation. No portion of it is as fierce as the message of the President, and in Mr Buchanan's last letter, after breaking off the negotiation, he says:—

"In taking this necessary step the President still cherishes the hope that this long-pending controversy may yet be finally adjusted in such a manner as not to disturb the peace or interrupt the harmony now happily subsisting between the two nations."

This passage is remarkable, and rather conciliatory, and people argue from it that the door to further negotiation has thus been purposely left open; indeed, this concluding sentence has rather tended to calm the popular excitement.

I am particular in sending you every phase of popular opinion on the Oregon question. The prevailing belief among all friends of peace in this country is, that Mr Pakenham committed a great error in refusing Mr Polk's offer of the 49th parallel, without at least having in the first place submitted the offer to his government—for all parties (I speak by the card) agree that it is the best that can ever be accorded to by this country, especially as it contrasted so favourably for Great Britain with the sweeping claim of Mr Polk's inaugural.

The Washington Union says, in relation to the correspondence about Oregon—"The issue is now in the

hands of Great Britain;" and, at the close of the article, the official editor further says—"Give us peace—but it must be peace with honour."

The American people think that the correspondence on the Oregon question, between the British and American plenipotentiaries, will have a favourable effect towards the United States claim, in the minds of the British people.

THE LATE GALES.

FEARFUL LOSS OF LIFE AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

The fearful gales from the north-west and north-east that have prevailed for the last week have occasioned the most distressing casualties off all parts of the coast. Already intelligence has been received of the loss of upwards of thirty coasting vessels, and many homeward-bound foreign ships with valuable cargoes.

The gale commenced on the morning of Thursday week, and continued up to Wednesday. In the Channel their effects were truly frightful. At Bideford, on Monday night, two vessels were totally lost within sight of the shore, and both crews, with the exception of one man, perished. In one of the vessels there was a crew of between thirty and forty persons.

Further along the coast, to the north of Cardigan, a shocking sight was witnessed. At one o'clock on Sunday afternoon, the wind blowing terrifically, the Victory, from Penmaudre, struck on the bar. The crew ran up the rigging and lashed themselves to the topmast, which was out of water, where the poor fellows remained, with the sea beating over them, for sixteen hours before the life-boat could venture out to rescue them. When brought ashore they were in a miserable state of suffering.

About five miles eastward of Cardigan harbour a fourth wreck occurred, viz., that of the Margaret and Mary, of Aberystwith. It was discovered by one of the coast-guard on Monday morning, who, perceiving a mast-head protruding from a cave under a high cliff, immediately proceeded to the spot, and found it to be a wreck. The master, Mr Jones, was found on the rocks, dead, and also a seaman, dreadfully bruised: the rest of the crew were drowned. She was from Drogheda, laden with limestone. A disastrous and total wreck took place on the rocks in Cemaes Bay, on the north coast of Anglesey, witnessed by more than 2,000 persons, who had been attracted by the firing of signal-guns from the unfortunate vessel. She was bark-rigged, about 400 tons burden, and called the Frankland, Captain E. C. Friend, master, laden with hides, sugar, cotton, and other merchandise, and was lost within a few hours' sail of her destination, Liverpool, after a favourable passage from Bahia. The crew were saved by a line and a hawser being carried up the cliffs, by which they were hauled up. The vessel is a perfect loss, and the unfortunate crew lost everything they possessed, with the exception of the clothes they had on. It is reported that the amount of the loss of the ship and cargo will exceed £20,000.

Along the same coast, off Pwllheli, Aberystwith, and Portwlaen, a number of other casualties happened, and many lives were lost.

The effect of the gale on the north coast, from the mouth of the Thames to Scotland, appears to have been as disastrous as in the channel. About 16 miles to the north-east of the North Foreland, an Indiaman, called the Woodman, Captain Good, from Bombay, was driven on a dangerous sand called the Kentish Knock, in the height of the storm on Saturday morning, her crew and passengers escaping in a very miraculous manner. Her loss is said to amount to near £30,000. Off Harwich, Lowestoffe, Yarmouth, Bridlington, and other ports along the coast, the traders and coiliers sustained extensive damage. At Bridlington, the bay presented a most animated scene, from the number of vessels running in for shelter. There were upwards of 200 at one period, the chief portion of which had lost anchors, cables, boats, bulwarks, and round houses, their decks being swept by the surf.

At Redcar, for three days, it blew with terrific violence; and on Sunday evening a vessel, supposed to be the brig Commerce, of Stockholm, Mr. Lister, master, foundered to the southward of the harbour, and every soul on board of her perished.

Near where the ill-fated Margaret, Hull steamer and all belonging to her, was lost (on the Dutch coast, near Norden, where the gale was fearful), another wreck, of nearly as appalling a character, occurred; viz., the total loss of an English vessel, supposed to be the Bellona, from Jersey. The vessel was discovered, early on the morning of Thursday, lying bottom upwards, on the sands of Nordeney; and, from subsequent inquiries, it has been ascertained that all her crew perished, and no portion of her cargo has been saved. The number supposed to have perished is 14 or 16. Further up the same coast, four other vessels were lost, the exact particulars attending which have not as yet been received.

A steamer belonging to the port of London is reported to be missing, and strong fears are entertained that she was lost during the gale, with all hands, while on her passage from the river to Bremen. She is called the Tom Bowline, and it appears that she left on the 11th inst., and nothing has since been heard of her.

On Saturday, the 27th instant, a large Dutch East Indiaman, name unknown, laden with a valuable cargo of coffee, sugar, and indigo, went ashore on the coast off Pevensy, a little to the north-east of the Head, the wind blowing tremendously, and the sea running mountains high. Some of the crew landed in safety in their own boat; the remainder, including the captain, remained on board the wreck all night, the sea continually breaking over her, but

were rescued by the life-boat the next morning. One man only was lost.

SHIPWRECK NEAR WHITBY.—FIVE LIVES SAVED BY CARTE'S ROCKET APPARATUS.—On Friday night last, between eleven and twelve o'clock, during a perfect hurricane, the brig Mercury, of Colchester, coal laden, was driven on shore amidst a terrific sea, three miles north of Whitby. One account states the vessel to have struck on Steel Point, and that she was afterwards driven on the sands near to Sandsend Beck, where the master was washed overboard, and two of the crew perished. Liberal rewards were offered by the Life-boat Society and W. Moberley, Esq., of the Sandsend Alum Works, for hands to render assistance. Meanwhile Lieut. Brittain, commanding the Coast-Guard Station at Whitby, proceeded with the whole of his force and the life-boat, including a set of Mr Carte's rockets. On reaching the spot every effort was made to launch the boat, but without success, the situation in which the vessel was lying being considered to be most dangerous of approach from the heavy cross sea. The rocket apparatus was then tried, and, to the great delight of all present, the first firing carried the line between the masts of the brig. The crew, who were in the fore and main tops, finding the vessel breaking up, about 4 39 A.M., made an effort to get hold of the line, in which they succeeded, and five of them, lashing themselves to it, jumped overboard, calling at the same time to the guard on shore to haul away: they were all dragged safely to land, although almost lifeless. The master and one man were washed overboard immediately the vessel struck; the other man was found drowned on board. Too much praise cannot be given to Lieutenant Brittain and his gallant crew, who went into the surf almost to their necks to assist the poor fellows in landing. In half an hour afterwards the masts fell, and the vessel went to pieces.—*Hull Packet*.

The above, it is feared, forms but a small number of the disasters consequent upon the gales.

BURSTING OF A WATER TANK AND LOSS OF LIFE AT LIVERPOOL.

The *Liverpool Mercury* contains the particulars of a most disastrous calamity in that city—the bursting of the large tank of the Liverpool and Harrington water-works, which has been attended not only by the loss of a vast amount of property, but by a great sacrifice of human life. The tank was capable of containing nearly 250,000 gallons of water; and at the time it burst, was about two-thirds full.

On Thursday morning, several of the men connected with the works attended for the purpose of filling the tank, and the engine was set to work for that purpose. The process of filling was continued up to half-past one o'clock, at which time it was about two-thirds full, when the event took place which we are about to describe.

From a statement obtained from one of the sufferers, named Simpson, it appears that he was sitting down to dinner with his wife in an upper room, when he heard a loud noise which he could only compare to the roaring of artillery, and immediately afterwards, before he had time to recover himself, the house seemed rent asunder as if by some convulsive shock; the front and back walls of the building fell with a tremendous crash, carrying chairs, beds, and other articles of furniture along with them into the street, and himself and wife were prostrated on the floor. They succeeded, however, by the assistance of parties below, in reaching the ground in safety. By this time it was ascertained that the tank belonging to the works had burst, and the houses and other buildings adjacent were rapidly filling with water. Even in the streets some persons were up to the middle, and pieces of timber, articles of furniture, &c., were being carried rapidly away by the force of the stream. Such was its impetuosity, that several large pieces of wood were seen floating down Hill street, as though driven by the current of a rapid river. The house next to the one we have been speaking of was occupied by a family named Deveney, and here the work of destruction was carried to a fearful extent, nearly the whole of the family being buried in the ruins of their habitation. Deveney, with his son and daughter-in-law, were got out with great difficulty, as were also several others, who lodged with them. The parties were immediately conveyed to the Northern hospital, several with legs and arms broken, but all more or less injured.

The bursting of the tank, it is now ascertained, caused the death of five individuals, and the wounding and maiming dangerously of eight others, besides the destruction of considerable house property. All the persons engaged in the operation appear to have had a perfect feeling of security. The result of the inquiry is looked for with intense anxiety.

INTERESTING CIRCUMSTANCE.—At a meeting held some time ago, an old sailor, who is probably one of the oldest Sunday-school scholars in England, produced a Bible, the fly leaf of which contained the following narrative:—This Bible was presented to me by Mr Raikes, at the town of Hertford, Jan. 1, 1781, as a reward for my punctual attendance at the Sunday school, and my good behaviour when there. And after being my companion for fifty-three years, forty-one of which I spent in the sea service—during which time I was in forty-five engagements, received thirteen wounds, was three times shipwrecked, once burned out, twice capsized in a boat, and had fevers of different sorts fifteen times—this Bible was my companion. As witness my hand, James Beach North.—*Sussex Express*.

THE SUPPLY OF POTATOES.

The Board of Trade is at present collecting information relative to the potatoes, so far as that is known in the port of London. Some of the merchants think the government is thereby preparing to justify itself before parliament in proposing the abolition of the corn law. Others think not, from the limited and partial nature of the inquiry. It seems to be confined, in most part, to persons not particularly well acquainted with the subject.

The *Morning Chronicle* gives the result of some inquiries made on the subject:—"Owing to the danger of shipping large quantities, the wholesale dealers in London do not lay in stocks as usual. There is not now a stock either at Goole or in the warehouses in London. A commission agent of extensive business tells us that he knows, within a few tons, what potatoes there are; and the quantity for disposal, at this moment, is not more than what remained undisposed in the month of May last. There is thus a deficiency in this chief article of diet of four months' consumption, and these are the four months of the year when the great bulk of the people can least afford other food. He says that owing to the necessity of the growers getting rid of what are now sound and which are daily becoming unsound; owing also to the reluctance of the buyers, from the same cause, to lay in stocks as usual, the prices will not rise to an excessive height until the supply stops altogether. He believes that by the end of January, or before it, there will be no potatoes in existence in the districts which usually supply Leeds, Huddersfield, Bradford, Sheffield, &c.

Potatoes of good quality are selling at a high price, but the progress of the disease in this neighbourhood seems to be arrested. The price in Leeds of the best table potatoes at Christmas, in the year 1844, was 1s. 2d. per weight of 48 lb., the present price, for those of the same quality, is 2s. per weight.—*Leeds Mercury*.

MR VINCENT'S TOUR IN SCOTLAND.

ALLOA.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights, Mr Vincent delivered three addresses in this town—on the state of society, and on the general questions of education, temperance, and freedom. The tickets of admission were sold at sixpence each, and it was delightful to witness so large a turn-out of all classes of the inhabitants, who gave to Mr Vincent a most enthusiastic welcome. Two of the meetings were held in the Secession church, and one in the Free Church. Mr M'Douall, the highly-esteemed pastor of the Secession church, occupied the chair on each occasion. We have seldom seen more interesting meetings, and the loud plaudits which greeted the many important truths brought under their consideration by Mr Vincent were indicative of the rapid advancement the people are making. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr M'Douall, which was carried by loud cheers.

TILLCULLITY.—On Friday night last, Mr Vincent addressed a large meeting of the inhabitants of this town in the Secession church—the pastor of the church in the chair. Two more meetings are to be held on Monday and Tuesday next. Great interest was manifested in the proceedings, and Mr Vincent's reception was most gratifying.

STIRLING.—GREAT MEETING ON CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.—On Wednesday night last, Mr Henry Vincent delivered an address in the large Secession church (the Rev. Mr Stuart's) of this town. Upwards of a thousand persons were present, amongst whom many of the more influential and respectable classes. Mr Vincent arrived a few minutes past eight, in the company of Bailie Smith and the committee, and was received with loud applause. Bailie Smith was called to the chair. He expressed himself delighted to see so large a meeting, and briefly introduced Mr Vincent. Mr V. gave a clear exposition of the voluntary principle, and the state of the establishment question in the United Kingdom. He also laid bare the policy of the leading statesmen on this subject, and pointed out the danger that would accrue to the cause of religion and the civil rights of the people, unless Dissenters were faithful to their principles, and sent men of the right stamp to parliament. He analysed the conduct of the Whig and Tory party in their Irish legislation since the passing of the Reform bill, showing that all their legislation had in view was the propping up of the Irish church, which he described as the centre of many of the wrongs endured by the Irish people. He denounced the conduct of Lord John Russell and the Whigs, during the Maynooth agitation, and appealed to Free Churchmen and Dissenters to unite in sending men to parliament who were in favour of separating church and state. He concluded by a vigorous assault upon the establishment principle, as injurious to religion, and opposed to the liberties and intelligence of the people. The address produced a deep impression, and was loudly cheered throughout. At the close, the cordial thanks of the assembly were tendered to Mr Vincent by Bailie Smith, and the large meeting separated at ten o'clock. [It is to be hoped that the Stirling and Dunfermline boroughs will send a good Free-trader, Voluntary, and Suffragist to parliament at the next election.]

ORANGE-PEEL ON THE FOOTWALKS.—Several newspapers in different parts of the kingdom record severe accidents which have arisen from the slovenly habit of throwing orange-peel on the footwalks. On Friday a gentleman, who was proceeding along Holborn, London, trod on a piece of orange-peel, fell violently, and fractured his leg and dislocated his shoulder.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

Last week, upwards of 60 tons, or 1553 cases of American cheese, at the Waterloo, were forwarded from Liverpool, and bonded in Manchester.

The public should be aware of counterfeit half-crowns, numbers of which are now very current.

Men are often treated like barrels—the empty ones stand up, and the full ones are laid down.

The "emperor fountain," in the Duke of Devonshire's gardens at Chatsworth, throws a column of water to the height of 267 feet! No other fountain in the world throws so high a column.

Dr. Polli, of Milan, known to the medical world by his remarkable researches on the blood, has just communicated to the Scientific Congress at Naples, a proceeding to render salt water drinkable by means of electricity.—*Medical Times*.

TO SWEETEN BUTTER.—2½ drachms carbonate of soda added to 3lbs. of either fresh or salt butter, possessing a disagreeable flavour, renders it perfectly sweet. Soda produces the same results when added to other culinary greases, as dripping, lard, &c., converting them into soap!

HONESTY "NOT" REWARDED.—A few evenings since, a lady, walking up Lemon-street, Truro, dropped a gold watch. A lad picked it up, and, running after the lady, restored it to her. She received it with no other remark than, "Thank you: it will cost me a shilling to have a new glass put in."

TOTAL ABOLITION OF SMOKE.—The Duke of Wellington has prohibited smoking in the army. Queen Isabella has forbidden smoking to the Spanish students. The King of Naples, too, we understand, has sent a similar prohibition to Mount Vesuvius. If these prohibitions are carried on much further, there will be nothing left shortly in the way of smoke, excepting a Queen's Speech.—*Punch*.

A CAPITAL HINT.—The *St. Louis New Era* makes the following strange suggestion. We hardly think it will be carried into effect. It would be a fatal advertisement for some M.D.'s:—"In marriage notices it is usual to give the name of the clergyman who performed the ceremony, and, with equal propriety in obituary notices the name of the attending physician should be given."

A JUST REPROOF.—A lady who had married a man of great good-nature, but a little deficient in point of understanding, was reproached by her brother-in-law, who told her in derision that she had coupled herself to a fool. "So has my sister," she replied, "for no man of sense would endeavour to give any woman a mean opinion of her husband."—*Scrap Book*.

HARVEST IN DECEMBER.—On Monday the 1st inst. Mr. Morgan John, farmer, near Pant-y-ladron, two miles east of Cowbridge, reaped a field of wheat. The produce, as might have been expected, was not very abundant, nor of a very superior quality.—*Hereford Journal*.

REMARKABLE BIRTH.—Mrs. Shee, the wife of a respectable victualler, at Enniscorthy, in the 66th year of her age, gave birth to a male child on the 27th or 28th of last month, to the surprise of the inhabitants of that locality. Her eldest child is upwards of 47 years of age.—*Wexford paper*.

ECLIPSES IN 1846.—Two eclipses of the sun occur next year, but none of the moon. The first is on April 25, an annular eclipse of the sun visible at Greenwich; it commences at two minutes past two; partially seen at Greenwich, 5h. 31m., and ends at 6h. 54m. The second is also an annular eclipse of the sun, but invisible in Great Britain.

RECIPE FOR DROWSINESS.—"I am so heavy of late—can scarcely keep my eyes open—I drop asleep at the fire-side sometimes. What must I do to shake off this somnolence?" "I'll tell you," replied a friend. "Thank you, what is it?" "Go and purchase a good lot of railway scrip, and you'll soon be wide awake."

RAILWAY SCALE OF MANNERS.—We have often been struck with the difference of manner assumed by railway officials towards different people. Shut your eyes, and you can tell from the tone of their voices whom they are addressing. The following examples will best illustrate our meaning. The railway potentate is calling upon the passengers to get their tickets ready. He calls:—"To the Third Class (*fortissime*): 'Tickets, tickets; come, get your tickets ready.'—To the Second Class (*forte*): 'Tickets, gents; get your tickets ready, gents.'—To the First Class (*piano*): 'Get your tickets ready, gentlemen, if you please; tickets ready, if you please, gentlemen.'—*Punch*.

PICK-THANKS.—Busybodies and intermeddlers (says an old writer) are a dangerous sort of people to have to do withal; for there's no mischief that may not be wrought by the craft and manage of a double tongue, with a foolish credulity to work upon. There is hardly a greater pest to government, conversation, the peace of societies, relations, and families, than officious talebearers and busy intermeddlers. These pick-thanks are enough to set mankind together by the ears; they live upon calumny and slander; these are the people that set their neighbours' houses on fire to roast their own eggs.

AN AMERICAN FUNERAL.—The friends assemble in their usual dress, and, by a numerous muster rather than by their inky habiliments, testify their regard to the memory of the defunct. As for hearse and mourning coaches, plumes, cloaks, and hatbands, with all the other tricks of undertakers to make out a long bill for funeral expenses, all such nonsense is unknown in America; whilst the act of sepulture is performed with as much propriety and decency as in London, and probably does not cost more than a sovereign! And why should it? This is one of the most glaring follies of my countrymen, and it is to be hoped their good sense will not much longer submit to the tyranny of undertakers.—*Rambles in America*.

QUESTION AND ANSWER.—"Where were you all the afternoon?" inquired the master. "Nowhere," answered the boy, carelessly. "Nowhere?" echoed the master, assuming a very wise look, and casting his eyes around the room, to see if the boys noted him—his custom always when about to utter an impressive remark. "That *nowhere* must be a great place, for a good many boys go there, I find. But how came you to go there, Patrick?" "Because," replied the little delinquent, "I had *nowhere* to go, so I went there." A loud laugh from the whole school followed, in which the master heartily joined.

Literature.

Thiers' History of the French Revolution. An Original Translation. By T. W. REDHEAD, Esq. pp. 790. A. Fullarton and Co.

IN nothing is the difference between French and English society more distinctly seen than in their respective treatments of literary men. In our own country, Macaulay has been merely tolerated by the Whig aristocracy, brilliant as are his powers and his productions. In France, the son of poor and obscure parents, first obtaining note as a writer for political journals, became prime minister at the age of thirty-nine, and is at the present moment one of the most important political personages in Europe, by virtue of the influence which he exerts on the great questions of peace and war.

M. Thiers has acquired great fame by the publication of his history of the French Revolution. Of that event it is not yet time to form a correct and comprehensive opinion. Its events, immediate causes, and immediate results, are patent to all; but anything deserving the name of its philosophy, must of necessity be reserved for some future, if not distant, time. We are not sufficiently removed from the great drama to receive the right impression of its nature. The passions which it fed or originated are not yet exhausted. Men do with it as they do with the Bible—bring their views to it, instead of taking them from it. One, therefore, cannot possibly see any good in it; another cannot possibly see any evil in it. Two things are very certain. The French Revolution, to adopt the cant of the day, is "a great fact." It has happened. It stands out palpably and prominently in history. There can be no mistake about the greatness of its characteristics and consequences. Unless we are fools, we cannot fail to see that it has deeply impressed, and will yet more deeply impress, the whole of civilised society; and unless we are infidels, we must admit that God intends it to convey the weightiest instruction to the children of men. Such an event deserves the profoundest attention, and it will most assuredly have it. Another certain thing to our minds is, that it must be interpreted, whenever interpreted aright, by great principles, and not petty maxims and doctrines. Two classes will never understand it—strong bad men, and good weak men. It is too moral an event for the one, too extraordinary an event for the other. We have most to do with the last, and verily, they have given but poor intimation of their competency to explain this great sign. They have looked at the men instead of the movement, the mere puppets instead of the mighty agencies that worked them; have brought fear, when they should have brought faith, to the task of interpretation; have used the key of creeds in place of the laws of Providence; and have forgotten general principles in individual actions. The French Revolution is, in the social world, what earthquakes, volcanoes, and such like occurrences, are in the natural world; and he who is unnerved by anything out of the common placid order of events, is manifestly unfit to study and comprehend it. We should as soon desire it at his hands, as we should expect a man to do exploits on water who faints away at the sight of a storm, or set a man to astronomical observations who is paralysed by beholding the tail of a comet.

We repeat it, the time is not come for understanding the French revolution. Theorising is out of place at present. The thing wanted is the careful collection of facts, the fair and full representation of scenes and agents; and, when this has been made, as it cannot be made by one man or in one age, we may look for that philosophical interpretation and application of principles which few portions of history more require, and of which few are more worthy. M. Thiers seems perfectly aware of this. "His is a clear and sparkling narrative," justly observes his translator, "where the eventful tale is told without tedious dissertations to distract and weary attention, or obtrusive reflections to influence judgment and uphold some pertinacious dogma. On sweeps the story with all its prominent features, shifting from scene to scene with ease and rapidity, introducing character after character as they emerge upon the stage, detailing occurrences with remarkable vivacity and precision, and unfolding with singular acumen the springs of action and the distinguishing peculiarities of individuals. But no philosophy, properly so called; and, without any intention of disparaging that school of historians, known as the philosophical in France at the present day, of which it would be impossible to speak too highly, it may be affirmed that, of such an event as the French revolution, so recent in date, and so disputed in its various phenomena, the record is most commendable which nearest assimilates to a chronicle—not a bare outline of facts, but a circumstantial and animated narrative, illustrated by those living portraits which convey so lively a perception of the spirit of an age, of its men and deeds. Such emphatically is the history of M. Thiers, and to this recommendation doubtless is owing its extraordinary popularity."

It is hardly necessary for us to give a judgment on the merits of this great work. The manner in which it has been received, considering its subject and aim, sufficiently evidences its possession of sterling excellence. M. Thiers has devoted to it the energies of an acute and persevering mind. He spent many years in collecting materials for it. Having mingled personally with a large number of the chief actors in the events he meant to describe, he had sources of information, and stimulants of interest, of the first kind. The spirit he has brought to his task is, in general, fair and honest; and the judgment he has exercised upon it, for the most part, cool and discriminating. It is true he has been charged by opposing partisans as what historian has not?—with gross errors and intentional misrepresentations. Of this we think but little. Without entering into detail, we have lived long enough to believe that almost anything may be accounted for by the point of view from which scenes and subjects are contemplated. M. Thiers writes naturally like a Frenchman, and an admirer of the French revolution—but what of that? We are not aware that he has written with insincerity or partiality, or made any mistakes which may not be easily accounted for by the magnitude of his work. On many occasions he has displayed a remarkably fair and fearless temper, showing clearly that he is as willing and able to censure as to praise. Taken altogether, his history will doubtless hold an abiding-place as a comprehensive, able, and living picture of events which ought to be known by every politician, philanthropist, philosopher, and saint.

Of the present edition, little need be said, but that little must be favourable. The whole of M. Thiers' original work is here printed in one volume, together with a sketch of French history from the foundation of the monarchy. Important notes, illustrative of the text, are added from various sources. Nearly a score of finely-executed plates bring before the view some of the most prominent personages and interesting scenes; and the whole is published at a price which puts it within the reach of general readers. The other historical works of M. Thiers are to follow in a similar form. We earnestly desire for them a large circulation.

Forest and Game Law Tales. By HARRIET MARTINEAU. In Three Volumes. Vol. I. pp. 252. Moxon, 1845.

MISS MARTINEAU has been often before the public, either as a subject or an author, or both. Her principles and abilities are pretty well known. Few subjects connected with the social state and civil government of man, have been without the benefit of her illustrations. Without much power of originality, but with great power of appropriation; creating little, but seeing a great deal; and possessing a vehicle of thought and fact which gives her a decided superiority to very many who yet have good judgments and good memories, she has attained a reputation which may be deemed considerable, when the nature of some of her theories, and the prejudice existing against female interference with a particular class of subjects, are called to the account. She has succeeded in nothing more than in presenting political and moral views in the shape of tales. The series she published some years ago excited a good measure of attention, and her return to this kind of teaching in the present instance, seems to show that she has not done better in other walks of literature. Be this as it may, we cannot doubt that she will find attentive listeners, and will do them good service.

The fair writer has commenced her present task through the advice of friends, who have represented to her, that a work like that she has commenced might possibly promote a better knowledge of the operation of our game-law system than obtains at present, and thus cause the change in it which appears inevitable, to be effected "in a more wise, easy, and amicable manner." The idea is happy; and, from the specimen before us, the execution bids fair to be happy likewise. It is intended to publish three volumes. The first contains four tales, in illustration of the forest laws from the time of Canute to that of the Long Parliament. The next two volumes will show the state of things from the Revolution of 1688 to the change of the law in 1831, and expose the working of the present system. Miss Martineau's descriptive power cannot fail to reveal her subject in a form calculated to arrest attention to one of the most striking modes in which the substantial interests of the many have been sacrificed to the selfish gratification of the few. We cordially wish her success.

Charles Elwood; or, the Infidel Converted. By O. A. BROWNSON. pp. 188. Chapman, 1845.

THIS volume is one of a series which the Messrs. Chapman are publishing, under the title of the "Catholic Series." Our readers must not suppose, from this designation, that there is any connexion with the Romish Church. "An attempt," say the publishers, "has been made by the Church of Rome to realise the idea of Catholicism, at least in form, and with but a partial success; an attempt will now be made to restore the word catholic to its primitive significance, in its application to this series, and to realise the idea of Catholicism in

spirit." The works already published—or rather, re-published—embrace a great variety of subjects and display a great variety of talent. They are not exclusively, nor even chiefly, religious; and they are from the pens of German, French, American, as well as English, authors. Without reference to the opinions which they contain, we may safely say that they are generally such as all men of free and philosophical minds would do well to know and ponder.

"Charles Elwood" is an American production, embodying the substance of the religious experience of the author. The tale, if so it may be called, has scarcely any incidents, consisting mainly of disquisitions and discussions on Deism and Christianity. The hero is first represented as a confirmed philosophical atheist, thoroughly understanding and despising the common arguments for religion; and his conversion is effected by arguments which, whatever their worth, are of a nature to be comprehended, we imagine, by but a small portion of readers. Many will question whether any conversion takes place at all. Upon this point we say nothing. That there are many important views presented, and a good deal of acuteness of thought displayed, will be admitted by most.

Ultramontanism; or, the Romish Church and Modern Society. By E. QUINET, of the College of France. Translated from the French. Third Edition, with the Author's approbation. By C. COCKS, B.L. pp. 184. Chapman, 1845.

THIS is another of the "Catholic Series." The author has acquired considerable celebrity in France. The present work has excited the suspicion of the Minister of Public Instruction, and the result has been his interference with the author's lectures, and their cessation.

"The ultimate purpose of M. Quinet," observes the *Spectator*, "seems to be to transfer the Vatican to Paris, to substitute France for the Pope of the middle ages, and to set up some misty kind of faith, founded upon God, love of humanity, and the French revolution"—"the Papacy," to use the words of the author, of "philosophy," "the new popedom of the Spirit." For this, whatever we may think of the soundness of his views, or the feasibility of his plans, he is a clever, warm, sometimes mystical, but always earnest and honest battler.

The Church. Vol. II. 1845. Simpkin and Marshall. Heaton, Leeds.

THIS is a periodical advocating Baptist views with considerable firmness; but, so far as we have observed, with fairness and candour. It is sanctioned, we ascertain, by the West Riding of Yorkshire Baptist Association, and edited by several ministers of learning, weight, and great respectability. It will incorporate with itself in the next year, the "Northern Baptist," conducted by Mr Evans, of Scarborough. It is, in fact, a Baptist Penny Magazine, and deserves to be strongly sustained by the body of whose opinions it is the vindicator. We have felt peculiar interest in the series of "Letters to Pious Churchmen on Establishments," and the short biographical notices of "Baptist Worthies." Those who judge by the price alone will form a very inadequate estimate of the value of this periodical.

CHARLES DICKENS was born about the year 1810, and in 1834 (when he was twenty-four years of age), he filled an obscure situation in connexion with the daily newspaper press of London. The name of the newspaper to which he contributed the "Sketches by Boz," which first attracted the attention of the literary public, was the *Evening Chronicle*. The extraordinary success of these sketches caused them to be collected in two volumes in 1835, and their circulation was unparalleled. His second book was published in 1837, and entitled, "The Pickwick Papers." This had a circulation of upwards of 35,000. This is one of Mr Dickens's happiest efforts, and has afforded us many a merry hour. "Nicholas Nickleby" was his next work. In this we have many melancholy and more mirthful pictures. The ill-used Smike—the starved scholars at Dotheboys' hall—and Nicholas's adventures with the strolling-player's company—are all described in his best manner. After the publication of this work, a new magazine made its appearance, entitled, "Bentley's Miscellany," of which he became the editor, and in it gave to the public his next novel, "Oliver Twist." There are many scenes of low vice in this work which, in our opinion, might have been omitted with benefit to the story. "Master Humphrey's Clock" was commenced in 1840, and is a series of tales by our author, "Barnaby Rudge" being the principal one. In 1842, Mr Dickens, on returning from America (to which he had made a short trip), published his "American Notes for General Circulation"—a work which, however, was not so successful as any of his previous ones. No doubt its non-success served to irritate him against our American friends, for, in 1843, he began "Martin Chuzzlewit," in which they do not figure very favourably. Mr Dickens has also published "A Christmas Carol" in prose, "The Chimes," and has just issued a pleasing new work for Christmas, called "The Cricket on the Hearth." The very name of Boz recalls to our minds the very happiest of recollections. Mr Pickwick, with his merry face, "a perfect map of smiles"—Sam Weller with all his irresistible drollery and his merry impudence—Little Nell—Oliver Twist—Toby Veck—Tiny Tim—and hundreds of other individual portraits, have all left an impression which we hope will never be effaced.—*Newspaper Paragraph.*

CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

Mr Milne, the Chinese missionary, has lately been giving a course of lectures on the Celestial Empire, at the Mechanics' Institute, Bradford. We avail ourselves of a brief report of these lectures, published in the *Bradford Observer*, to furnish a few of the more interesting extracts. Mr Milne was accompanied by a Chinese friend of the name of Woo, concerning whom he gave the following information:—

They were thrown into company about the middle of the Chinese war, and since then had been mutual teachers, companions, guides, and friends, each having the utmost confidence in the other; they had travelled in company over three provinces, a distance of 13,000 miles, and they intended to continue their affectionate relation until separated by death. About eighteen months ago, when he (Mr Milne) was coming to England, the offer was made to Woo to accompany him; he accepted that offer, and he had been more than gratified by what he had seen and heard. He had brought Woo over not so much to be furthered in the study of Chinese, as to let him see the English as they really were, to afford him the means of observation, so that at his return he might promulgate his views among his own countrymen.

Female customs:—

The females of China were described by their own people as "chalk-faced creatures," for to obtain the colour of the English they applied to their faces a mixture of white lead and chalk; and "oily-headed creatures," from the glossiness of their hair. They were also called "silk worm eye-browed ladies" or "willow leaf eye-browed ladies," for it was their aim to appear, when in full dress, with their eye brows so shaded as to resemble the willow leaf or the eye brow of the silk worm. The hobbling gait of the women was remarked by all strangers in China: this arose from the custom of compressing the feet, so as to form what are called "small feet." Up to about seven years of age the female children were allowed to romp and play about, with their feet free, but then the torture was applied, the smaller toes were forced under the sole, and thus bandaged for life. The custom was only prevalent among the ladies, and was not universal with them: obtaining more in some provinces than in others; in one province, containing 28,000,000 of people, he did not see a single compressed foot—in another all the women, even the beggars, had them. The occasion of this custom was the following:—About 1100 years ago an emperor of China had a favourite concubine, who had been brought up in a dancing school, and had had her feet compressed by the master. On one occasion she danced before his Majesty, who was so pleased with her, that he intimated to the empire his gratification at seeing such small compressed female feet, and every lady who had not feet small enough already had them instantly compressed to about three inches long as a general average. The ladies were fond of smoking; each lady carried a pipe nearly as long as herself; and they had a particular manner of showing attention and honour to guests—that of taking their pipes from their mouths, and putting them into the mouths of those they desired to distinguish.

Curious manners and food of the Chinese:—

A very general feature in Chinese manners was the contrariety to English customs. To go to a party we choose the thinnest pumps for our feet, they the thickest white-soled shoes, say an inch and a half thick. If the sun were shining in the street, a person so visiting would take off his hat and give it to a servant, contenting himself with the use of a large fan to shade off the sun; arrived at the threshold of his friend's mansion, he claps his hat on his head, and walks into the drawing room, where he stands till his host appears; they curtsy (the ladies bow); and he sits down with his hat on; instead of shaking hands with each other, as we do, each shakes his own hands in compliment to his friend. Dinner, when served, would consist of dessert first, meat, and end with fish and soup. Chop sticks (a corruption of a Chinese word for "quick sticks") were used to eat with; utensils more like ladies' ivory knitting needles; but, awkward as they might seem, the Chinese eat with them with great rapidity. Their food consisted of fish, pork, mutton, and sometimes beef (but the believers in the Buddhist religion were forbidden to eat beef) and rice. Among their dainties were birds' nests, and the palm of an ape or baboon's hand, and donkey's head! At one entertainment he was invited to, there was a covered dish on the table, which, when opened, was found to contain several live crabs; these quickly crawled to all parts of the table, when the cover of the dish was removed, and each guest then employed himself in picking up the fish, immersing them in a dish of vinegar which stood by his side, in order to make them more lively, and then, throwing them into their mouths, they crushed and swallowed them. On each table stood one dish, out of which all were expected to eat at the same time, and, as in the custom of the ladies' pipe, that guest was most honoured who had a morsel thrust into his mouth by the host with his chop sticks. The study of these habits had been of great use to him during his residence in the country, as he showed by recounting the particulars of an adventure which occurred to him while traveling in disguise in the interior of the country.

Honorary degrees:—

The degrees are "Elegant shoots of fine talent," equal to our B.A. "Elegant men," equal to M.A. "Advanced scholars," equal to LL.D., and "Man of the forest of pencils."

Charitable institutions:—

Among the charitable institutions, they had founding hospitals established in many cities, alms-houses for old men and for widows, who, in common with all aged people, were treated with the greatest respect; provident or relief institutions for the halt, the lame, the maimed, and the blind; educational charities for poor scholars, medical dispensaries, blind hospitals, leper hospitals, and vaccine institutions. The "Practical Benevolent Society of Ningpo" was an institution having no less than nine objects—to take cast-off children, to provide raiment for the weather-bitten poor in winter, to give coffins to the poor when dead, to bury those found dead, to gather the scattered bones found in grave yards, and

to take care of what were called "charity hills," where the unclaimed dead were interred, to dispense medicine to the sick poor, to provide the poor with tea in summer, and, in accordance with a superstition, to gather all pieces of paper found in the street and burn them. Mr Milne denied the charge of infanticide brought against the Chinese, and asserted that it was as true of England as it was of China. The number of foundling hospitals might be regarded as some argument against the habitual prevalence of the crime.

Religion:—

The religions of China are the Confucianist, the Taoist, and the Buddhist. The former, the political religion, was established in the sixth century before the Christian religion, by Confucius, who, after spending fifty years in his country's service, died, aged eighty years; and consisted of a number of trite sayings, truisms, and proverbs arranged, and over the whole the sanction of antiquity was thrown. Its propounder was now worshipped as the Supreme. Taoism originated at the same time; and was, in a great measure, a system of mental abstraction, with much of alchemy intermingled. The Buddhist came from the north-western provinces of India, and taught the entire absorption, after death, into Budd. These had, by an unnatural coalition, worked their way, and now held in thralldom the minds of the people of China.

Antiquity of the Chinese empire:—

He said there was a burning curiosity to ascertain whether, in that distant and wonderful country, China, under all the rubbish in which they were buried, any resemblance could be found of the details of the Mosiac revelation. Some time since the lecturer had undertaken to study this subject. The Chinese divided their history into three parts—authentic, traditional, and mythological. At the present time they had amongst them a very correct and distinct mode of counting their historical periods by cycles of fifty years. Now, looking at the authentic period, and taking the cycles at the present time, and reducing those cycles to the entire number of years since the commencement of the authentic history, and the time at which the first real character sat upon the throne, he found that that individual mounted the throne 2,200 years before Christ. This was 139 years after the flood, and about the age of Peleg, in whose days, according to the Mosiac record, was the earth divided. Compared with scripture chronology, that gave us the thirty-second year after the dispersion or confusion, as the date of that emperor, Yu, sitting upon the throne, which was just time enough for such an increase of family as to admit of immigration. The lecturer then gave a brief sketch of the traditional and mythological period, showing the coincidence of many of the events related, with the statements given in the Mosiac record, and proving that the first king of China must have synchronised with the immediate descendants of Noah. The Chinese empire was founded 2,200 years before the Christian era, and was contemporary with the establishment of the Babylonish and the Egyptian monarchies. China had seen the rise and fall of fourteen dynasties, and 236 emperors had swayed the sceptre over the people of that empire. With those he would associate empresses, but really those lady empresses had behaved so ill, and were so often at the bottom of all mischief, that 300 or 400 years ago they found it necessary, and determined, from that time forward, to dispense with the services of ladies as ruling empresses.

Religious Intelligence.

THE DEATH OF MR KNIBB.—On Sabbath evening a funeral sermon for Mr Knibb was preached at the Baptist chapel, Thrapston, by Mr John Clark of Jamaica. Mr Clark's intimate acquaintance with the private character of the departed—the proximity of the place to the town where Mr K. was born—and the presence of a sister, gave an unusual interest to the occasion. The text was Matt. xxv. 21, from which the preacher showed that a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ, was well illustrated by the character of Mr Knibb, and that a faithful servant's reward was being enjoyed by him. His love for his Master—his love for his commands—his imitation of his spirit and conduct—in his hatred of oppression, and expansive benevolence, were dwelt upon, and illustrated by the life of the departed. By private letters received from friends on the spot, Mr C. was furnished with the means of describing the closing scene. It was one of joy and peace. The last Sabbath was a suitable conclusion to such a life. He baptized a considerable number of persons in the morning, and in the evening closed his commission by addressing an overflowing congregation from those heart-stirring words by which an apostle has designated the message of mercy to man, "The glorious gospel of the blessed God." Probably the following extracts kindly furnished by Mr Clark, and which are descriptive of the dying experience, will not be unacceptable, as they have not appeared before the public. "On the Friday," writes one of the missionaries, "he was in a happy state of mind. He had an unshaken confidence in the Redeemer. During the night he said to Mr Millard, 'Oh that I might reach the port! how blessed and happy I should be!' On Mr Millard repeating Cowper's lines,

"Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face,"

he exclaimed with joy, 'O yes, brother, it is so; but what bliss it is to see the cloud dispersed, and the smile of God resting upon me! Yes, he is my advocate. Oh, the sins of omission and commission! but his blood cleanseth from all sin.'

"A guilty, weak, and helpless worm,
On Jesus' arm I fall."

Another friend writes, "When something like delirium seized him, he sung and prayed as no one had ever heard him before. He also gave an address, and in solemn tones pronounced the benediction. When the fit of delirium somewhat subsided, he pressed dear Mrs Knibb's hand, and looking at her

affectionately, said, 'Mary, it is all right,' and in a few minutes all was over."—From a Correspondent.

THE JEWS.—On Thursday (Christmas) morning Mr R. H. Herschell preached an interesting and instructive sermon at Craven chapel, on "The Feast of Tabernacles," after which a collection was made, amounting to £58, to assist in erecting a chapel (to be vested in trustees) now building in John-street, Edgeware-road, in the parish of Marylebone, where Mr Herschell hopes to obtain many hearers from among his Jewish brethren. The parish is the abode of a large portion of the most intelligent and respectable Jews in London; and in the present unsettled state of the Jews in regard to their religion, a Christian place of worship where the truth is preached by one of themselves, may well be considered a Jewish missionary station. The object is most worthy. We, who are of the Gentiles, too little remember the large debt of practical sympathy and good-will that we owe to the people.

ADELPHI CHAPEL, HACKNEY ROAD.—A most interesting service took place on Tuesday evening, Dec. 23rd, to organise a Christian church in this newly-erected place of worship. Dr Reed kindly presided, assisted by Messrs Woodhouse, Viney, Ransom, and Seaborne. After suitable exhortation and prayer, the members (113 in number) received the right hand of fellowship, and were recognised and declared to be a church of Christ. The recognition was then confirmed by a participation in the ordinance of the Lord's supper with the ministers and members of other churches. Appropriate and impressive addresses were delivered to the communicants, and to the numerous spectators witnessing this solemn and important service.

GREAT MISSENDEN.—Mr George Ashmead, of Kensthorpe, Northamptonshire, has accepted the unanimous invitation of the Baptist church, Great Missenden, Bucks, and will engage in his duties, as pastor of this people, directly.

MANCHESTER.—Mr R. Morris, of Burton-on-Trent, has accepted the cordial invitation of the Baptist church, York street, Manchester, and is expected to enter on his labours the first Sabbath in January.

BIRTHS.

Dec. 18, at Calthorpe terrace, Banbury, Oxon, the wife of RICHARD HENRY ROLLS, Esq., solicitor, of a daughter.
Dec. 18, the wife of Mr SADDINGTON, of St John's street, Smithfield, of a son.
Dec. 28, the wife of Mr T. AVELING, Stoke Newington, minister, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At the Baptist chapel, Harlington, Middlesex, by the pastor, Mr J. George, Mr JOSEPH HUNT, of Overberg House Academy, to Miss MARY ANN FLEETWOOD, of Iver, Bucks.
Dec. 17, at the Independent meeting-house, by Mr Henry Betts, Mr JAMES DOUGLAS, to Miss SARAH CHRISTIAN CATERMOULE, both of Great Yarmouth.
Dec. 24, at Victoria-street chapel, Derby, by Mr James Gawthorn, Mr HENRY GREEN, to HANNAH, youngest daughter of Mr WILSON, brazier, King street.
Dec. 25, at the Independent chapel, Woburn, Beds, by Mr J. Andrews, Mr GEORGE LEES, upholsterer, &c., Regent street, London, to Miss ELIZABETH HILL, youngest daughter of Mr Joseph Hill, yeoman, Potesgrove, near Woburn.
Dec. 25, at Kingsland chapel, by Mr T. Aveling, minister, Mr WILLIAM M'FER, of Clifton street, Finsbury, to Miss S. E. CLEVELAND, of Kingsland.
Dec. 25, at the Independent chapel, Halesworth, by Mr G. L. Smith, GEORGE RACKHAM, printer, of Stowmarket, to MARY ANN, eldest daughter of Mr Charles COOK, of Wissett.
Dec. 27, at Barnsbury chapel, Islington, by Mr C. Gilbert, minister, Mr JAMES DANKIN to Miss BARLOW.
Dec. 27, at Frogmore-street chapel, by Mr Micah Thomas, EMERY, youngest daughter of the late John CONWAY, Esq., of Ponglydyowr tin works, to Mr JONATHAN DANSON, Tottenham.

DEATHS.

Dec. 2, at the Chapel-house, Hays-hill, near Ross, Herefordshire, Mr THOMAS BOYCE, minister, in his 84th year.
Dec. 11, at Highgate, at the house of her son, Mr Robert Wrightson, bookseller, of Birmingham, Mrs JANE HATTON, aged 92 years. This venerable lady had been for nearly sixty years a member amongst the Wesleyan Methodists.
Dec. 17, at Wakefield, the Rev. CHARLES GLOYNE, Wesleyan minister, in the eightieth year of his age. He triumphed gloriously on his death-bed.
Dec. 22, in the Straits of Dover, on board the Helen Stewart, from China, JANE, the wife of Dr HONSON, aged thirty-two, after an illness of many months, contracted from a long residence in a tropical climate.
Dec. 25, at his residence, Acre-lane, Clapham, J. E. SPICER, Esq., in his 80th year. His end was peace.
Dec. 27, of consumption, at her residence, 20, Surrey square, Old Kent-road, Mrs GRAFFTEY, widow of the late Mr Samuel Grafftey, aged fifty-four years.

Trade and Commerce.

Friday, December 26.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—
Highbury Independent-chapel, Birmingham.

BANKRUPTS.

ABSOLOM, GEORGE AUGUSTUS, Portsea, victualer, Jan. 6, Feb. 6: solicitors, Messrs Corner, Dean street, Tooley street.
DIXON, FREDERICK, Long Lane, Bermondsey, currier, Jan. 5, Feb. 13: solicitor, Mr Fry, Cheapside.
LANKSHIRE, JOSEPH, Seymour row, Little Chelsea, surgeon, Jan. 7, Feb. 4: solicitor, Mr Thompson, Bucklersbury.
PHILLIPS, PHILIP, Birmingham, steel-pennmaker, Jan. 13, Feb. 6: solicitor, Mr Jabbett, Birmingham.
ROBINSON, FRANCIS, Princes street, Chelsea, cowkeeper, Jan. 2, 30: solicitor, Mr Wansey, Moorgate street.
STREETER, EDWARD, Bristol, builder, Jan. 9, Feb. 6: solicitor, Mr Hopkins, Bristol.
TOULMIN, CHARLES WILLIAM, South Island-place, Clapham-road, livery-stablekeeper, Jan. 8, Feb. 6: solicitor, Mr Buchanan, Basinghall-street.
WALLES, WILLIAM, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer, Jan. 13, Feb. 10: solicitors, Messrs Bennett and Co; Scott's-yard, Cannon-street; Messrs Chater, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr Scaife, Newcastle.
WILLIAMSON, CURTIS, Great Portland-street, wine-merchant, Jan. 6, Feb. 3: solicitors, Messrs Bristow and Tarrant, Bond-court, Wallbrook.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ALLAN, W., Glasgow, oil merchant, Jan. 2, 23.
DAVIDSON, S., Lanarkshire, wright, Dec. 29, Jan. 24.

M'GILVERAY, D., tailor, Dec. 29, Jan. 28.
MORRISON, D., Glasgow, merchant, Jan. 2, 23.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

Hayward and Collier, Manchester, cotton-spinners: first and final div. of 12s.; and first and final div. of 20s. on the separate estate of H. Hayward, Dec. 30, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr Pott, Manchester—Brown and Preston, jun., Manchester, cotton-spinners: first div. of 4s. 7½d.; and first div. of 9s. on the separate estate of T. Preston, jun., Jan. 13, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr Pott, Manchester—Austin, Manchester, brickmaker: interest on debts, Dec. 30, or any subsequent Tuesday; Mr Hobson, Manchester—Jevons, Lincoln, shoe-maker: first div. of 2s. 1d. Dec. 27, and the three subsequent Saturdays; Mr Groom, Abchurch Lane—Smirk, Broad court, Bow street, victualer: first div. of 2s. 8d. Dec. 27, and the three subsequent Saturdays; Mr Groom, Abchurch Lane—Farrow, Stanton, Suffolk, draper: first div. of 4s. 6d. Dec. 27, and the three subsequent Saturdays; Mr Groom, Abchurch Lane—Robson and Barron, Limehouse, patent pump manufacturers: first div. of 5s. any Wednesday; Mr Graham, Coleman street—G. H. and G. C. Green, Bucklersbury, wholesale stationers: first div. of 1s. 9d. Dec. 27, or any subsequent Saturday; Mr Edwards, Old Jewry—Braithwaite, Morpeth, innkeeper: first and final div. of 3s. 2½d. Dec. 27, or any subsequent Saturday; Mr Wakley, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Tuesday, December 30th.

BANKRUPTS.

BROOKS, JAMES, Gooderstone, Norfolk, miller, Jan. 15, Feb. 13: solicitors, Mr Nettlefold, Vine-street-house, Milbank; and Mr Jonas Walpole, Northwold, Norfolk.
COUSEN, JAMES and LUCY, Bank house, Bingley, Yorkshire, and COUSEN, JOHN RICHARDSON, Bradford, worsted spinners, Jan. 12, Feb. 6: solicitors, Messrs Hawkins and Co., Boswell court, London; Mr Wells, Bradford; and Mr Courtenay, Leeds.
JONES, BENJAMIN, 34, City road, draper, Jan. 14, Feb. 6: solicitors, Messrs Soles and Turner, Aldermanbury.
MORE, RICHARD and BLAKE, BENJAMIN WILLIAM, Norwich, coal merchants, Jan. 12, Feb. 10: solicitors, Mr Jay, 8, Bucklersbury, City; and Mr Bailey, Norwich.
PHILLIPS THOMAS, of Shrewsbury, hop merchant, Jan. 15, Feb. 10: solicitor, Mr Jesse Bartlett, Birmingham.
WOOD, BENJAMIN, jun., of Leeds, wine merchant, Jan. 12, Feb. 6: solicitors, Messrs Few and Co., 2, Henrietta street, Covent Garden, London; and Messrs John and John Everard Upton, Leeds.
WORSAM, GEORGE JARVIS, 25, Great Mitchell street, Old street, St Luke's, engineer, Jan. 5, Feb. 14: solicitor, Mr Buchanan, 8, Basinghall street, City.

DIVIDENDS.

J. Raleigh, T. S. Goode, and W. Holland, Manchester, merchants, Jan. 20, or any subsequent Tuesday—J. Danks, Birmingham, wharfinger, any Thursday—W. Shaw, Stafford, saddler, any Thursday—C. Timmis, Darlaston green, Staffordshire, flint grinder, any Thursday—T. H. Wetmore, Worcester, grocer, any Thursday—J. Bourne, Bemmersley, Staffordshire, printer, any Thursday—J. Beet, Bradford, Yorkshire, dyer, any day after Jan. 5—J. Haigh, Horsley, Yorkshire, clothier, any Wednesday

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	94½	—	94½	95	95	94½
Otto for Account...	94½	—	94½	95	95	94½
3 per cent. Reduced	95	—	95	95½	95½	95
New 3½ per cent.	96½	—	97	97½	97½	96½
Long Annuities...	104	—	104	104½	104½	104
Bank Stock...	202½	—	204	—	204	204
India Stock...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills...	24pm	—	24pm	24pm	25pm	27pm
India Bonds...	30	—	37	—	33	38

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian	96	Mexican	31½
Brazilian	82	Beruvian	41½
Buenos Ayres	41	Portuguese 5 per cent.	27½
Columbian	16½	Ditto converted	59½
Danish	86	Russian	115½
Dutch 2½ per cent.	61½	Spanish Active	30
Ditto 4 per cent.	93½	Ditto Passive	7
French 3 per cent.	82	Ditto-Deferred	16½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester	126	London & Croydon Trunk	22½
Blackwall	9½	London and Greenwich	10
Bristol and Exeter	33	Ditto New	—
Eastern Counties	21	Manchester and Leeds	131
Edinburgh and Glasgow	71½	Midland Counties	154
Grand Junction	71	Ditto New Shares	31
Great North of England	212	Manchester and Birmingham	78
Great Western	164	Midland and Derby	122
Ditto Half	94	Norwich and Brandon	24
Ditto Fifths	37	South Eastern and Dover	37
London and Birmingham	220	South Western	73
London & Birm. ½ Shares	25½	Trent Valley	17
London and Brighton	65	York and North Midland	108

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, Dec. 29.

The show of wheat from Kent was quite trifling this morning; still considerable difficulty was experienced in effecting sales, and excepting on the very best qualities, which sold at prices about 1s. per qr. above those current on this day week, no advance could be established. Choice Barley was in request, at previous terms. Other sorts, though offered at last Monday's quotations, were almost unsaleable. Peas were also dull of sale, and barely supported former rates. Beans brought quite as much money. In prices of oats no change occurred. Canary-seed was the turn lower.

Wheat, Regl.	50 to 59	Malt, Ordinary ..	49 to 52
Fine	52 to 65	Pale	58 to 60
White	57 to 65	Rye	33 to 35
Fine	64 to 68	Peas, Hog	34 to 36
Flour, per sack ..	32 to 57	Maple	36 to 38
Barley	26 to 38	Boilers	45 to 53
Malting	34 to 35	Beans, Ticks	32 to 40

Beans, Pigeon	40 to 45	DUTY ON FOREIGN CORN.	
Harrow	34 to 41	Wheat	11s. 0d.
Oats, Feed	21 to 22	Barley	5 0
Fine	23 to 25	Oats	4 0
Poland	22 to 26	Rye	6 6
Potato	26 to 30	Beans	1 6
		Peas	1 0

Wheat	57s. 11d.	Wheat	58s. 6d.
Barley	32 7	Barley	33 5
Oats	23 4	Oats	24 10
Rye	34 5	Rye	36 1
Beans	39 6	Beans	41 11
Peas	42 5	Peas	44 4

SEEDS, MONDAY, Dec. 29.

The transactions in the seed market afford little scope for remark, and the only change in prices we have to notice is a further small decline in canary seed.

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Waterside, Dec. 29.

The supply to this market during the past week was very limited by the usual conveyance. There was a number of tons arrived from Scotland by the steam-boats, and from Yorkshire by the steam-boats and by the railways, which kept this market sufficiently supplied for the very limited demand. The prices

ranged as follows:—York reds, from 50s. to 130s.; York Regents from 100s. to 130s.; Scotch reds from 90s. to 100s.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Dec. 29.

The demand for best new Kent bags has been moderate, and the quotations have been fully supported. In other descriptions the transactions have been very limited, but we do not note any change in prices. Sussex pockets are about £6 10s. to £7 per cwt.; Weald of Kent do., £6 10s. to £7 10s.; Mid-Kent do., £7 7s. to £9 10s.; and East Kent do., £8 5s. to £10 10s.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, Dec. 29.

In Irish butter the dealings, although only to a moderate extent, were fully as large, and the appearances as good as could be expected at the season of the year; and prices, with little variation, we consider not quite so much depressed as they were. Foreign was in fair demand at full prices; best quality ruled at 112s. to 116s. per cwt. For singed bacon the demand was slow, and the sales, for the most part, of a retail character. Prices varied from 47s. to 50s. per cwt., according to size and quality. Of bale and tierce middles, hams, and lard, no alteration worth notice occurred in value or demand.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Dec. 29.

Owing to the limited arrival of beasts, and to increased attendance of both town and country buyers, an advance in the currencies obtained on this day se'night, of 2d. per 8lbs. The supply of sheep was unusually small; hence the mutton trade ruled active, and the quotations improved 2d. per 8lbs. The general quality of the sheep was good. There were very few calves on offer; yet the veal trade was by no means active, though prices were well supported. The pork trade was again steady, at full rates of currency. The number of pigs on sale was small.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).
Beef 2s. 10d. to 4s. 6d. Veal 4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.
Mutton 3 6 5 2 Pork 3 10 5 2

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Dec. 1.

	Per 8lbs. by the carcase.		Per 8lbs. by the carcase.
Inferior Beef 2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d.		Inf. Mutton	3s. 6d. to 3s. 10d.
Middling do 3 0 to 3 2		Mid. ditto	4 0 to 4 2
Prime large 3 2 to 3 4		Prime ditto	4 4 to 4 6
Prime small 3 16 to 3 8		Veal	3 10 to 4 10
Large Pork 3 8 to 4 6		Small Pork	4 8 to 5 4

WOOL.

Christmas week is usually a dull one for the sales in wool, and this has not been an exception. We look forward to a better demand in the early part of the year.

COTTON.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 26.—Since Tuesday, when accounts were received from the United States with the President's message, the market has assumed an appearance of greater firmness, and there has been less disposition on the part of holders to press sales; at the same time, owing to the particular season of the year, no increase of business has taken place; and although the quotations of Friday last remain unaltered, yet the prices obtained have been rather in favour of holders.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Dec. 20.—At per load of 36 trusses.
Old Meadow s. to —s. New Clover Hay .. 88s. to 116s.
New ditto 70 to 95½ Old ditto —
Useful Old ditto .. — — — — — — — — — —
Fine Upland ditto .. — — — — — — — — — —

COAL EXCHANGE, Dec. 26.

Stewart's, 18s. 0d.; Hetton's, 18s. 0d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 18s. 0d. Ships arrived this week, 104.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, DEC. 30.

TEA.—The deliveries are small, about 320,000lbs. The market continues in a dull state, but the quotations are not lower.

Advertisements.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE IRONS.

The LARGEST ASSORTMENT of STOVES and FENDERS, as well as GENERAL IRONMONGERY, in the WORLD, is now on SALE at RIPPON and BURTON'S extensive warehouses, 39, Oxford street, corner of Newman street (just removed from Wells street). Bright steel fenders, to 4 feet, from 30s. each; ditto, ditto, with ornolu ornaments, from 60s.; rich bronzed scroll ditto, with steel bar, 10s. 6d.; iron fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d.; 4 feet, 6s.; ditto bronzed, and fitted with standard, 3 feet, 9s.; 4 feet, 11s.; wrought iron kitchen fenders, 3 feet, 4s. 6d.; 4 feet, 6s.; bright register stoves, with bronzed ornaments and two sets of bars, from 5 guineas; ditto, ditto, with ornolu ornaments, from 49 10s.; black dining-room register stoves, 2 feet, 20s.; 3 feet, 30s.; bed-room register stoves, 2 feet, 16s.; 3 feet, 21s. The new economical Thermos stove, with fender and radiating hearthplate, from £8 5s.; fire irons for chambers, 1s. 9d. per set; handsome ditto, with cut heads, 6s. 6d.; newest pattern, with elegant bronzed heads, 11s. A variety of fire-arms, with ornolu and richly-cut heads, at proportionate prices. Any article in Furnishing Ironmongery 30 per cent. under any other house. The money returned for every article not approved of. Detailed Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. Established (in Wells-street) 1820.

RIPPON and BURTON'S Stock of General Furnishing Ironmongery is literally the largest in the world. They regret they cannot employ any language which will convey an adequate impression of its variety and extent; they therefore invite purchasers to call and inspect it.—Rippon and Burton, 39, Oxford street (corner of Newman-street). Established in Wells street 1820.

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It is not anticipated that more than Five Pounds per Share will be required to be paid up.

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Profit per Cent.	Present Price per Share.	Amount per Share paid up.	Amount of Shares.	Established	Office.
£240 0 0	£17 0 0	£5 0 0	£50	1808	Atlas Fire and Life
Shareholders paid off in 1844, upwards of 100 per cent. premium.					
40 0 0	50 15 0	250 0 0	1000	1823	Economic Life
67 0 0	16 10 0	36 10 0	100	1821	Guardian Life
390 0 0	49 10 0	10 0 0	100	1820	Imperial Fire and Life ..
235 0 0	6 10 0	10 0 0	100	1823	Law Life
375 0 0	4 17 0	2 0 0	50	1836	Legal and General
166 0 0	47 0 0	10 0 0	100	1806	Rock Life
88 0 0	18 0 0	6 15 0	100	1810	Sun Life
			100	1813	Universal Life
			100	1834	Royal Exchange, Fire, Marine, and Life
			100	1820	Fire and Life

The plan upon which this Company is based, has been adopted, after the most minute and careful investigation of the operations of those above-named, and the promoters contemplate that they will be enabled to secure advantages through this Company which no other has yet offered. One of its immediate objects will be to effect assurances on lives deviating in various degrees from a state of full health to a precarious and even dangerous condition.

Most of the Life Assurance Companies refuse to take risks on persons unless in full health. Hence many are shut out from the ability to prepare for the support or assistance of dependants. Yet Fire-offices will insure against damage by fire, and Underwriters will insure against losses from the dangers of the seas, under any risk, such insurance being made at premiums proportionate to the risk.

This Company will adopt the same principles, by assuring such risks at fair remunerating premiums, for which purpose Medical Superintendents of first-rate talent are to be appointed in the principal towns in the United Kingdom and in the Colonies, to aid the Company with their valuable advice and assistance in each individual case; and it is intended that such Medical Superintendents shall be proprietors of not less than Five Shares of the capital stock of the Company.

The Company will have separate tables for effecting assurances on lives in full health: for hazardous, double, treble, and quadruple hazardous; and also for effecting assurances, for certain periods, on lives which may be considered almost hopeless.

In numerous cases, even under the last-named position, the effecting such assurance will be a great object to the parties. Supposing, for instance, the person whose life is proposed to be assured, should be entitled to an estate, should he attain a certain age, shortly to arrive, or to an annuity or the like, should he live to a certain day, it would be highly important to his friends to pay a liberal premium to assure his surviving till the arrival of that period. There are innumerable cases ineligible to be assured by other offices where the risk is little more than imaginary, and such persons would gladly pay an increased premium. These profitable risks, therefore, will form the peculiar objects of this Company. Persons engaged in dangerous undertakings, engineers, and persons undertaking long voyages, also, will be assured by this institution.

The general benefit of Life Assurance is, that it enables every one to provide for those whom the ties of affection or duty have rendered dependent. To those holding public offices, medical men, to men in the professions, the Church, the Law, the Army, the Navy, to Tenants for Life, to persons engaged in mercantile transactions and in trade generally, and, in fact, to all whose incomes depend upon their own lives or personal exertions, or upon the lives of others, it holds out peculiar advantages, inasmuch as it enables them to secure a future provision for their wives and families, without materially retrenching those comforts and conveniences which habitual station in life has rendered necessary. It enables persons to make marriage settlements, to borrow money where personal security would be insufficient, to provide renewals of fines or leases at a small expense, to obtain security for debts, and to secure the return of advances to children, in the event of premature death. In short, it affords the means of indemnifying every one from the money loss to which he may be subjected by the death of another.

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One half of the shares will be allotted to gentlemen of the medical and legal professions, and to the clergy throughout the kingdom, who will, more or less, be interested in the prosperity of the Company.

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Dated this day of 1845
Name (in full)
Residence
Trade or profession
Place of business (if any)
Reference

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The Directors of this Company are desirous of appointing one or more Gentlemen (Physicians, Surgeons, or General Practitioners), as Medical Referees, in each of the principal Towns in Great Britain and Ireland, and also in Foreign Countries, to whom Applicants for Assurances residing in their districts may refer.

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The Directors will appoint Agents, as above, to transact their country and foreign business, who, as well as the Medical Referees, will be required to hold not less than Five Shares in the capital stock of the Company.

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			Half-year ending June, 1843.
Nottingham Review	1841.	1842.	1843.
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By order of the Board,
THOMAS PRICE, Secretary.

MR. and MRS. ROE'S BOARDING SCHOOL for YOUNG LADIES, The Hermitage, Birmingham, will RE-OPEN Monday, 26th January, 1846.

MRS. HENRY VINCENT begs to inform her Friends and the Public that she receives a limited number of Young Ladies, to board and educate. The instruction given combines every department of useful and polite education, with the greatest attention to the health and comfort of pupils.
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HYDROPATHY.—Dr ELLIS, now coadjutor with Dr WEISS in the Practice of the Water Cure, may be consulted at his Establishment, 10, Alfred place, Newington causeway, on Mondays and Fridays, at Nine o'clock; at Sackville street, Piccadilly, on Fridays, from Eleven till Four; and on other days at the Establishment, Sudbrook Park, near Richmond, Surrey.

CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIAN UNION.—It is proposed to hold a PUBLIC MEETING at Exeter Hall on Thursday, January 8th, 1846, for the purpose of stating and explaining the Proceedings of the Conference held at Liverpool in October last.

The Chair will be taken at Eleven A.M. precisely, by R. C. L. BEVAN, Esq. It is expected that the meeting will be addressed by the following Ministers and Gentlemen:—Rev. Dr. Leifchild; Rev. C. Bickersteth; Rev. Dr. Alder; Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel; Rev. J. H. Hinton; Rev. J. Hamilton; Rev. Dr. Cumming; Captain J. E. Gordon; Rev. Dr. Harris; Rev. J. Sherman; Rev. C. Prest; and Rev. C. Pearson.

Tickets may be had, on and after the 1st of January, 1846, at the Office of the "Proposed Evangelical Alliance," 2, Exeter Hall; and of the following Booksellers: Messrs Nisbet, Berners street; Seeley, Fleet street; and Snow, Paternoster row.

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